

# Saipan Tribune

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## INSIDE



### Hot City

Looking for a new place to hang out? Hot City, which recently opened right at the heart of the San Jose commercial district, may just be the perfect place for you.

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### Hostage Standoff

At least two people were confirmed killed, including a school parent, when armed militants stormed a Russian school in a region bordering Chechnya on Wednesday.

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### Paradise

I used to ask why mainlanders go to Saipan to live and work. I don't ask that anymore. I am sure that majority of them on Saipan are on the island simply because nothing beats the good life in paradise.

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# \$3.5M for La Fiesta was split?

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Only half of the \$3.5 million for which the Northern Marianas College was supposed to have bought the La Fiesta shopping mall actually went to the purchase of the facility, a document obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* showed.

According to a copy of the minutes of

an Aug. 9 meeting of the college council, the \$3.5 million that was believed to have been paid to Hotel Nikko and Cocos Lagoon Development Corp. did not all go to the purchase of La Fiesta. Rather, \$1.75 million was paid for the La Fiesta mall, while the other \$1.75 million went to the lease payment.

This means that NMC owns only half of the La Fiesta building. Further, the college now owes the landowner \$1.75

million less than the \$4 million that it owes for the 20-year lease.

According to the minutes, NMC president Antonio Deleon Guerrero only learned of this information at a meeting with Hotel Nikko executive vice president Hideo Nishigori.

"With this info, La Fiesta is not just an asset, it is a liability in our books. It changes the outlook on our financial and accreditation perspective. We need

to show how we can take care of our liabilities," a portion of the minutes read. "If we do not want to make payment, we lose everything—the building and the lease. If we want La Fiesta, we need to begin negotiations with landowners immediately." The transcription of the meeting did not indicate who made this statement.

The Western Association of Schools

See \$3.5M on Page 12



### SUNNY WEATHER, AT LAST

Tourists took to the Beach Road pathway to take advantage of the return of the sunny weather after weeks of supertyphoons, floods, and unremitting monsoon rains.

JOHN RAVELO

# Food shortage looms on Agrihan, Alamagan

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

Supertyphoon Songda severely battered the tiny populated islands of Agrihan, Alamagan and Pagan, destroying houses and wiping out crops. A food shortage looms on the first two islands, as remaining stock of food and water remained low.

The Emergency Operations Center said that there were no reports of casualties from the supertyphoon on the three islands.

Recent reports reaching the EOC said some 36 people reside on the three is-

## *Shelters close down tomorrow*

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

All government shelters that were opened in the run up to Supertyphoon Chaba will be closed down tomorrow, with scores of evacuees having gone back to their homes after nearly two weeks in evacuation.

lands—13 on Agrihan, 12 on Alamagan, and 11 on Pagan.

EOC public information officer Jenn

The number of evacuees staying at government shelters went down to 442 yesterday.

Emergency Operations Center public information officer Jenn Castro said some of the evacuees at the Marianas High School were relocated to the Ada gymnasium, while the rest of them

See SHELTERS on Page 12

Castro said Agrihan's residents only had 10 gallons of water remaining as

See FOOD on Page 12

## August car sales up 77 percent

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

The release of the 2002 rebates partly boosted vehicle sales in the CNMI last month, resulting in 77.89 percent growth rate compared with the same month last year, according to data obtained from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association.

CADA's August 2004 report showed that 169 vehicles were sold

See AUGUST on Page 12

## Local

# Customs says it is probing importer, not the lawmaker

Customs Services director Jay Santos yesterday said his office is not investigating a Tinian lawmaker in connection with a container of goods that was allegedly diverted from the Port of Saipan to Tinian's port.

"Customs is not probing any lawmaker anywhere in the CNMI," Santos said. "Customs does have an investigation for the [goods'] importer."

Santos refused to reveal the identity of the importer pending the completion of the probe possibly late this week.

A Tinian lawmaker had allegedly intervened so that an incoming container would evade inspection by Customs officers

on Saipan. The lawmaker, who was not identified, allegedly persuaded Customs inspectors to conduct their inspection instead on Tinian. The Customs inspectors reportedly agreed but they rushed to Tinian to supervise the inspection. It was there that they allegedly discovered loads of cartons of cigarettes inside the container, which were apparently not declared as part of the shipment for taxation purposes.

Santos said the container also included foodstuff, shoes and other general merchandise. The shipment arrived in the Commonwealth last Aug. 12.

Santos said that, based on regu-

lations, an importer could provide the division with necessary documents up to seven days from the time the goods arrived.

"Customs doesn't want to impede commerce. We have Customs agents [on] Tinian and Rota who are capable of conducting inspections and assessing goods for taxation," Santos said. "We are the CNMI Customs Service—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

"It was never our intent to implicate any lawmaker," Santos said. As of yesterday, he said the ongoing probe has yet to unearth any wrongdoing regarding the concerned shipment. *(John Ravelo)*

## FEMA: Use cell phone when registering

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands advise those who sustained damage as a result of Typhoon Chaba to exercise patience when attempting to register for assistance. Teleregistration is still the best and quickest way to register, but because of

power problems and 800 number overloading, the wait may be longer than normal.

Until further notice, it is recommended that those who have access to a cell phone to use that phone to call to register. Cell phones are accessing the teleregistration number of 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) and

TTY 1-800-462-7585 quicker and more efficiently than regular telephones. Attempting to register at the Disaster Recovery Centers will result in a longer waiting period and less efficient service.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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mcdo


**COMMUNITY**  
Briefs

**Insurance check-points today**

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section and Bureau of Motor Vehicle will be conducting roadblocks today, Sept. 3, to check on motorists if their vehicles have mandatory insurance.

The first setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe in front of the Multi-Purpose Center. It will be in operation at about 9am and will be terminated at about 10:15am.

The second set up will be on Beach Road, Susupe in front of the Minatchom Attdao. Operation will start at approximately 4pm and will end at about 5:15pm.

The checkpoints will be terminated if it begins to rain.

This operation is in accordance with Public Law 11-55, the Mandatory Liability Auto Insurance Act, which mandates that all vehicles traveling on the roads of the CNMI must be insured. The checkpoints serve to educate the community about the law, and enforces the Act. Violators will be fined up to \$500.

For more information, contact: Rose T. Ada-Hocog at 664-9084/5.

**ChaCha PTSA meeting reset**

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and students of the ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School that the scheduled Parents Teachers Students Association meeting yesterday was postponed. It is rescheduled for next week, Sept. 9, 2004. For questions or concerns call the school at 664-4100, 664-4103, or 664-4106.

**OWWA health screening on Sunday**

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office is sponsoring a health screening for overseas Filipino workers this Sunday, Sept. 5, 9am to 12:30pm, at the Nauru Building, Susupe.

OFWs who would like to have their blood sugar tested are advised to fast (not to take in any food or water) from midnight up to the time of their testing.

**PSS SPED program meeting set**

The Public School System's Special Education Program will be conducting a Special Education State Advisory Panel meeting on Sept. 9, 11am-3pm, at the Pacific Gardenia

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda for this meeting will be passed out at the meeting.

**NMI delegates to 'RP Invasion' seek help**

The "Philippine Invasion" will

be held in Manila, the Philippines from Sept. 9 through 12, hosted by Every Nation Ministries. Missionaries and Christian delegates from around the world, including members of Life in the Son Christian Fellowship-Saipan, will be attending the convention.

Member will be having a lunch sale this Saturday, Sept. 4, at the 13 Fishermen's area to fundraise for this activity. For ticket purchase or information, contact us at 484-1161

**DEQ cleanup on Saturday**

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at the Lally 4 Beach south to Hopwood Jr. High School.

Individuals who would like to volunteer their time to clean up and beautify the island are encouraged to meet the DEQ representative in the bright green t-shirt on Saturday, Sept. 4, at 8am at the Lally 4 Beach Pavilion.

The brigade cleans until 10am and breaks for drinks, then continues if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade members who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated at least three times will receive a bright green brigade shirt, DEQ said.

"This is a cleanup that shouldn't be missed. So join DEQ's Cleanup Brigade and 'Pick It Up!'" said the agency in a statement.

For more information about how one can become a member, contact DEQ at 664-8500.

**September events at GES**

Cultural Heritage Month ends with Cultural Day at the Garapan Elementary School. If parents would like to prepare booths or presentations, call GES at 664-3955.

- Sept. 6, 2004—there will be no classes due to Labor Day;
- Sept. 7, 2004, is Mid Progress Report Day;
- Sept. 10, 2004, is the deadline for Free Meal Applications;

- Sept. 10, 2004—GES will be having a special flag ceremony in remembrance of 9/11. "We will wear patriotic colors."

- Sept. 15, 2004 is Pizza Hut Night. Proceeds will help fund this year's handbook for parents/students.

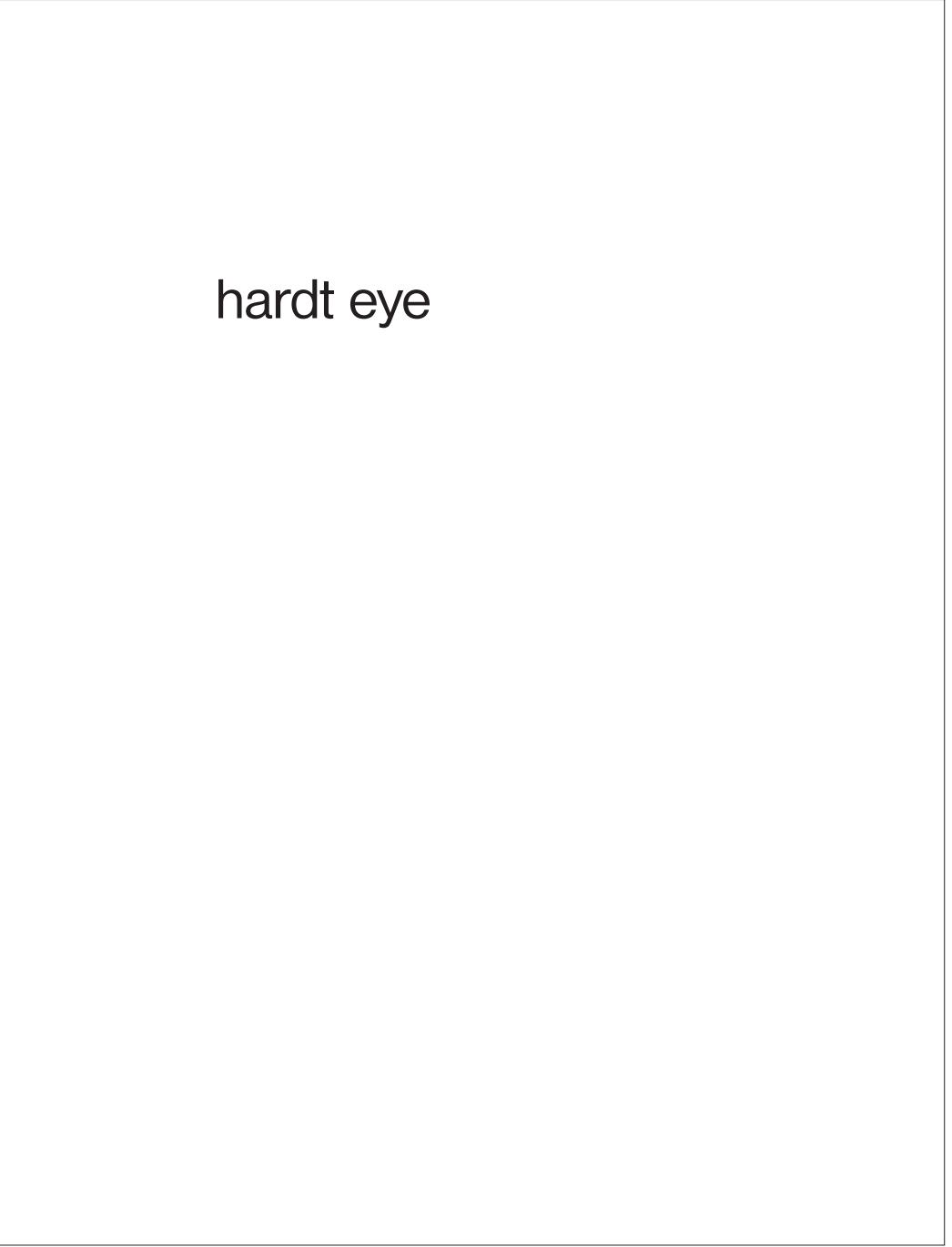
- The week of Sept. 20, 2004 will be school picture week.

- Sept. 30, 2004 is PTA Night at 6pm in the school cafeteria.

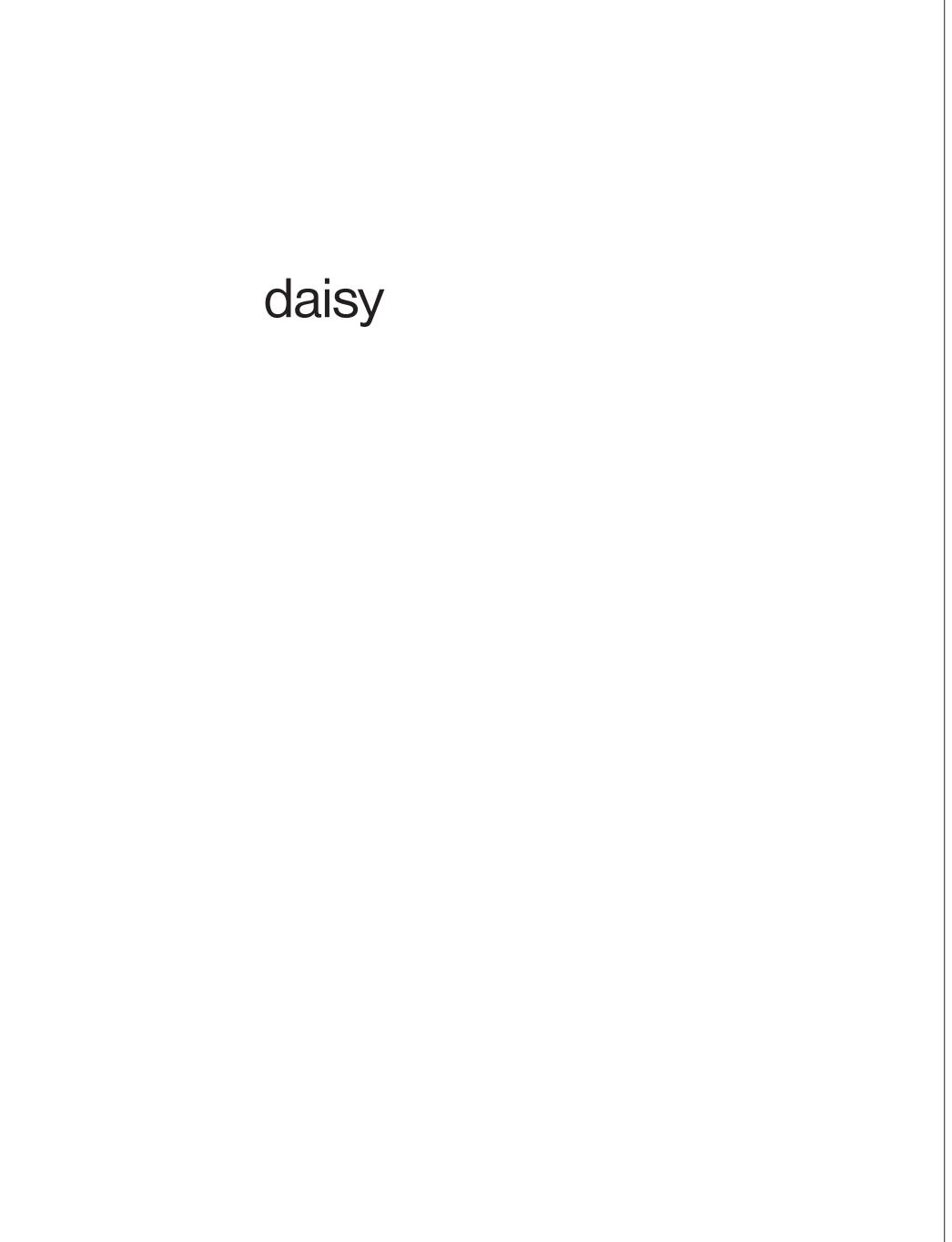
More information regarding these activities will be disseminated as the month progresses, the school said in a statement.

The school also extended its gratitude to 99 Cent Supermarket, which donated rakes to teachers for the campus clean up after Supertyphoon Chaba and to the Saipan Mayor's Office for throwing away the debris from the typhoon.

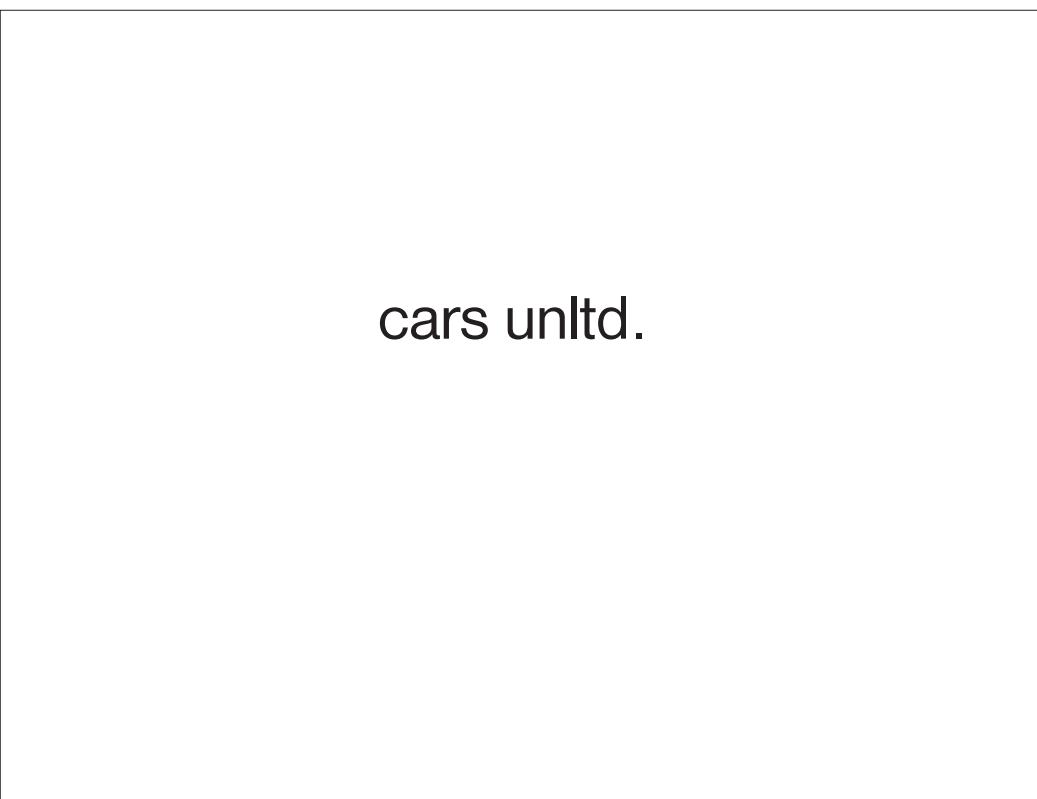
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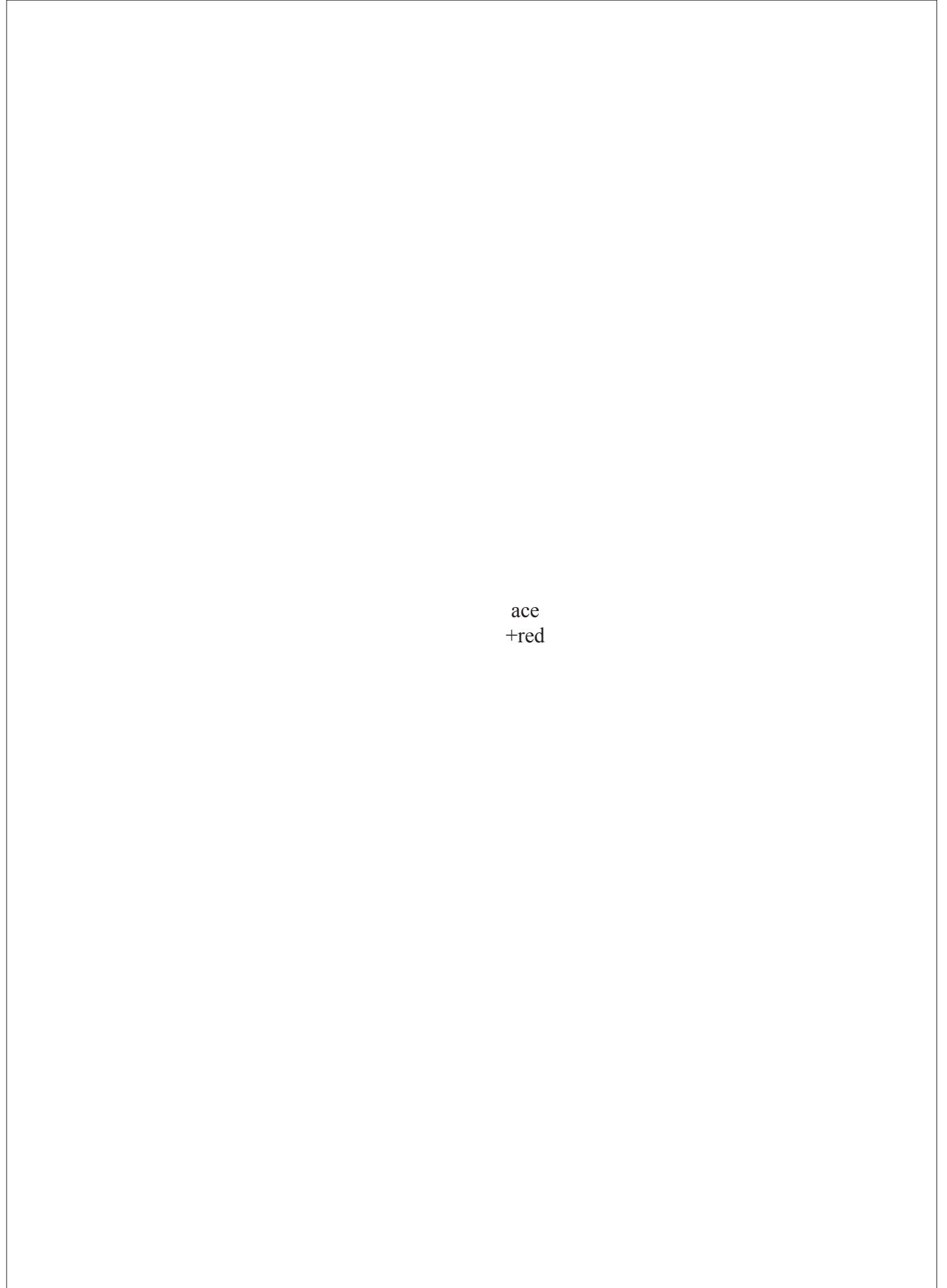
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## Guam delegation supports Bush at convention

**HAGATNA, Guam** (PDN, PIR)—Patriotism was the prevailing theme in speeches at the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York, where Guam cast nine votes for President Bush's candidacy for a second term.

Senator Joanne Brown, R-Ordot/Chalan Pago, a member of the Guam delegation, said by phone that patriotism was emphasized by such convention speakers as former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Senator John Mc-

Cain, R-Arizona.

Brown said the Republican Party platform acknowledges Guam as a "strategically vital territory."

The party also affirms support for Guam residents to achieve greater local self-government

and improve federal-territorial relations, Brown said.

The delegation also includes Governor Felix Camacho, first lady Joann Camacho, Senator Robert Klitzkie, R-Yigo, Zeny Pilarca, Manny Cruz, Patty Di-ege and Mary Torres.

## Another Saipan lass lands on Who's Who

Another Saipan student made it to the 2003-2004 edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*®.

Kimberly L. Seman was recently informed by that her biography has been accepted for publication in *Who's Who*, making her eligible to compete for one of the 200 scholarships of \$1,000 each that will be awarded this year.

"Since only 5 percent of the students from our nation's 24,000 high schools are honored in *Who's Who* each year, we commend you for your

achievements. You may want to celebrate this honor with your family," said National Academic Affairs chair Parke H. Davis in his letter to Seman.

Seman's student biography will be included in the 38th Edition of the publication, including other mementos that display her achievements.

Seman is now automatically eligible to compete for one of the 200 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Over \$3,600,000 has been awarded through this program to date.

Her inclusion also enables her to use The College Referral Service®, a reference service for college-bound *Who's Who* students exclusively.

"With the CRS, you can designate which colleges you want us to notify of your selection to *Who's Who*. Recent surveys indicate that 95 percent of responding college admissions directors use the CRS to recruit students for admission," said Davis.



Each year over 100,000 referrals are made for *Who's Who* students.

Seman was also given the opportunity to nominate a teacher whom she wishes to honor in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*®.

"When evaluating the teachers who 'made a difference' in your life, please remember to consider teachers from your earliest years who may have influenced your current success," Davis said.

## UP Alumni Association meeting tomorrow

THE University of the Philippines Alumni Association CNMI Chapter will hold its regular general membership meeting tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 4, at the POLO/OWWA area of Nauru Building.

The meeting will start at 6pm. It will also coincide with the sendoff party for the chapter president, Dr. Concepcion "Ching" Van Der Veen.

All members are encouraged to attend the potluck party. UPAAl also thanks its sponsors, donors and supporters for the Aug. 14 raffle drawing. Proceeds of the fundraising activity will go to the building of a classroom in the Philippines for the next school year.

Sponsors and supporters include Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety, Horizons Inc., Pacific Islands Club, Dr. Gabriel de Guzman, Guadalupe Sabino, Elizabeth Hernandez Arcilla, Liza Sablan, Micronesian Marine, Guangdong Hardware, Janet C. Villagomez, Dr. Concepcion Van Der Veen, United Printers Inc., Philippine Labor Attache Joanne Lourdes Lavilla, OWWA Officer Mary Dait, and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Filipino Workers Resource Center.

Winners of the raffle drawing are J. Marie Fulgencio (1st prize, \$500); Rebecca Flores (2nd prize, \$200); and Dr. Gabriel de Guzman (3rd prize, \$100). These three major winners donated full or portion of their prizes to UPAAl. Consolation prize winners are Dr. Gabriel de Guzman (1-year subscription of Saipan Tribune); Jess Marfil (three-month subscription of Marianas Variety); Mila Tuazon (1 PIC Waterpark pass); and Ariel Lavilla (1 PIC Waterpark pass). Other winners of tools and cases of fruit juices include Domie Tebuteb, Orleyne Tabucanon, Izaiah Borja, Lupe Sabino and MC Villagomez.

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# Opinion

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## Remember Afghanistan?

**C**hapter one of President Bush's war on terror, before Iraq, was the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, where the governing Taliban was in cahoots with Al Qaeda. In June, Bush called Afghanistan "the first victory in the war on terror." And during the Republican convention this week, Bush supporters are playing up Afghanistan to draw attention away from the mess in Iraq. But last weekend's bombing in Kabul, the Afghan capital, provided the latest reminder that the victory is nowhere near complete.

The death toll—at least six—was bad enough. More stunning was the bomb's target: a building used by the company that provides security for Afghan President Hamid Karzai and is training a national police force. Somehow the remotely detonated bomb escaped the notice of security guards.

There has been progress in Afghanistan since the post-Sept. 11 ouster of the Taliban. Many schools have opened, and millions of Afghans have registered to vote in the presidential elections scheduled for October. Kabul has been largely peaceful, a tribute to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force stationed there.

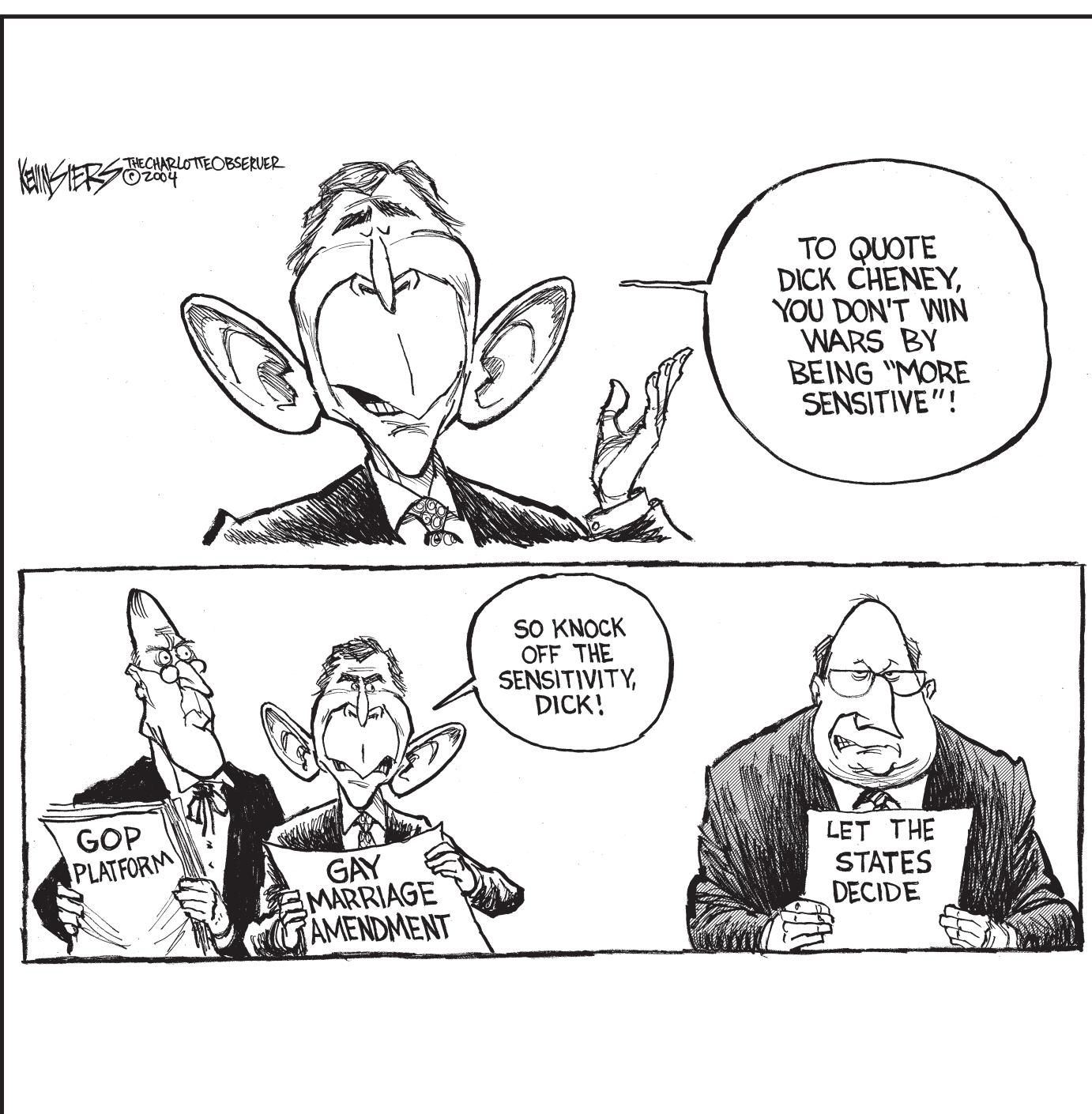
But the country's setbacks are many. The Taliban is far from destroyed, and its leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, is still at large. So is Osama bin Laden, and Al Qaeda remnants still fight U.S. troops.

Foreigners and international organizations have been special targets in the last year. Two United Nations workers registering voters in southeast Afghanistan were among six killed in a bomb blast in July. That month, the Nobel Prize-winning group Doctors Without Borders announced it was withdrawing from the country. Officials with the nonprofit group said the security situation was so bad, and the investigation of the June killing of five of its staffers so poor, that it could no longer put its members at risk. At least two dozen additional Afghan and foreign workers for international aid groups have been killed this year.

Karzai has had trouble extending his writ much beyond Kabul. Too much of the country remains the fiefdom of warlords. Some of these men helped U.S. forces in the months after the invasion, but they must be disarmed now before the country can collect taxes, build more schools or stamp out the opium poppy crop—which is estimated to have increased 36-fold since the days of Taliban rule.

Washington shortchanged Afghanistan to launch the Iraq war and seems to remember the early battleground of the war on terror only when political advantage accrues. If the U.S. clears the cobwebs and remembers Kabul again, it will have to stay focused to produce long-term progress. That must include pushing European nations to supply more troops and speed up the timetable for reconstructing the country.

(c) 2004, Los Angeles Times



## As politicians squabble, poverty grows

By DOUGLAS MACKINNON  
Special to the Los Angeles Times

**W**e're deep in another campaign season, and although hot air and predictable conventions may be entertaining for some people, there are 36 million Americans who most likely couldn't care less about the Democrats, the Republicans or the presidential election. They don't believe that either party speaks for them or cares about their fate. They are the nation's poor—and 1.3 million more people joined their ranks last year.

The Census Bureau, in its just-released report on poverty, outlines the utter despair of these Americans. The statistics serve as a slap in the face to decades of government "solutions" and meaningless political rhetoric. Shockingly, the Census Bureau definition of poverty for a family of four is \$18,810 per year or less. Do the math and you will quickly find that families that fit into this category cannot survive without help. By far, the most obscene statistic in the new report is that 13 million children are living in poverty.

That number is most troubling to me because my entire childhood was spent in poverty. I grew up on welfare, and I was homeless a number of times. By age 17, I had moved 34 times because of evictions.

For me, poverty has never been an academic exercise. In fact, it was because of poverty that I decided, while living in the Democratic stronghold of Dorchester, Mass., to become a Republican.

When I was a child, the Democrats' answer to my and my neighbors' poverty was to give us just enough to exist, but never the means to escape. The Republican mantra of self-responsibility and less government not only made more sense but in theory was the answer. Unfortunately, like most things in life, the theory has been overwhelmed by subjective reality.

Poverty should not be fodder for crass partisan politics. It's a matter of the dignity of human beings—human beings who, often because of happenstance, find themselves condemned to a

lifetime of heartbreak, despair and pain.

And yet, predictably, Sen. John F. Kerry and his campaign have tried to use the latest Census Bureau numbers to indict President Bush and his administration. And truthfully, were a Democrat now president, the Republicans would file the same baseless charges.

Driven by ignorance, partisans on both sides simply can't help themselves. Worse, they live in a bubble of comfort that fuels their ignorance—their children never go without food, their phone or electricity is never turned off for nonpayment, their worldly possessions are never piled on the sidewalk after an eviction, and a loved one never dies simply because he can't afford proper medical care.

The millions of Americans living below the poverty line represent a huge voting bloc but garner little or no respect from the parties in power. Some Democrats ignore the poor, many of whom are minorities, because they think their vote is in the bag. Some Republicans think the Democrats own the poor, so why pour precious resources into serving an unwinnable demographic? Collectively, both parties mostly ignore the poor because they believe most of them won't vote anyway.

Many of us, sometimes most of us, simply can't identify with the plight of the poor. Well, that may soon change. If certain trends continue, more "middle-class" Americans could find themselves creeping below the poverty line.

Consider the other factor that the Census Bureau's new report measures: the number of Americans who are uninsured—45 million. The National Center for Policy Analysis just released its own report, which finds that "households that earn \$50,000 per year, or more, account for about 90 percent of the increase in the number of uninsured over the last 10 years." Two-thirds of that number come from households earning more than \$75,000 per year.

Poverty. Continue to ignore the problem and it could become your life. It's time we were all held accountable.

*MacKinnon is former press secretary to Bob Dole and also a former White House and Pentagon official.*



**PEACE LANTERNS**

Tinian's man'amko and Tinian Japan volunteers pose with the lanterns they made for the Candle Light Vigil that was held on the island on Aug. 9. The vigil began at the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Peace Gardens and ended at the Kammer Beach Main Pavilion. The 200 floating lanterns were later launched at the Tinian Marina. The floating lantern ceremony was a reproduction of the lantern ceremony held in Hiroshima. In the Japanese custom, setting off lanterns on the river is a way of sending off the souls of the deceased.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# 'GTA deal would improve service'

**GUAM (PDN/PIR)**—One telecommunications company executive welcomes the sale of the island's government-owned telephone agency, as long as it will result in a "level playing field."

On Tuesday, the Guam Telephone Authority management and board of directors signed a \$150 million deal to sell the nation's last government-owned telephone company to TeleGuam Holdings LLC, partially owned by Shamrock Capital Growth Fund, which is a subsidiary of the investment firm owned by Roy Disney's family.

If the sale is approved by the local and federal governments, TeleGuam promises to expand GTA's services to include high-speed Internet access,

wireless phone, long-distance call and digital cable services.

After the announcement of the TeleGuam deal, GTA interim General Manager Lawrence Perez said smaller local telecommunications companies may have to keep up with competitive pricing and high-end services TeleGuam will offer, or be "abolished."

Tony Das, chief executive officer for EC Communications, said he is in full support of privatization and believes a level-playing field will be set once the company takes over Guam's main telecommunications infrastructure.

"After more questions are asked and answered, EC Comm and myself will have absolutely nothing but the highest regard for the concept of a

privatized telecommunications market, with the caveat of a level playing field," Das said.

As the island's main phone service provider, the telephone agency has the "last mile" access to homes or, as Das explained, the wire connection to a customer.

In accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the new owners of GTA would need to be transparent in leasing lines to other companies, including fair and equal tariffed prices, Das said.

"The privatization process is going forward, and it will allow companies such as mine to move ahead on a level-playing field to provide that last mile access," Das said. "Since the new

owners have bought a government monopoly ... we will make sure that we are treated equally in terms of access to those networks."

Das said he was one of many people who helped draft the federal telecommunications act, which opened the industry to competition. Das was a senior aide to Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and was executive vice president of Startec Global Communications before it was bought by EC Communications.

Das said he has no reason to believe a new, privately owned GTA would not be compliant with the federal law.

EC Communications provides broadband access, long-distance calling and other telecommunications services.

**\$3.5M**

From Page 1

and Colleges has placed NMC's accreditation on warning status amid pending issues with the college's financial condition.

In an interview, however, Deleon Guerrero dismissed the information on the minutes as "inaccurate." The copy of the minutes—which has been sent out by email to all the three NMC campuses—was "a draft," he said.

Deleon Guerrero maintained that the entire \$3.5 million grant money from the Governor's Office was paid for the

purchase of the shopping mall. This amount was split between Hotel Nikko and Cocos based on their respective rights to the building.

Nishigori, who is negotiating with NMC regarding La Fiesta, refused to make a categorical reply when asked to confirm Deleon Guerrero's statement. "I'm not the person who can say that," Nishigori told the *Saipan Tribune* over the phone.

Rep. Justo Quitugua, chair of the House Committee on Education, said he has never discussed the payment for La Fiesta with NMC officials. He noted that the funds came from the Governor's Office, not the Legislature.

In a special meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept. 11, the NMC Board of Regents is expected to make a decision on how it plans to utilize La Fiesta, Deleon Guerrero said.

The college president is now meeting with various decision-making bodies in the college, such as the College Council, Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and the Associated Students of NMC, to hear their opinions on the La Fiesta issue.

"I will be making a proposal to the board for their review and approval. I hope that whatever their decision will be, it will be a win-win solution for all the stakeholders involved, including

the faculty, personnel and students, as well as the government and the whole community," Deleon Guerrero said.

He declined to elaborate on the proposal, but he said that all options will be considered.

At least two groups have expressed interest in utilizing La Fiesta, although none of them has submitted a formal response to NMC's request for proposals.

One is a California-based firm that wants to lease portions of La Fiesta. The other is the University of Guam, with which NMC is entering into a memorandum of agreement to establish a UOG center at La Fiesta.

well as the Oleai Elementary School—would resume classes on Sept. 7.

Chaba displaced over a thousand residents, who fled their homes and took refuge at government shelters for several days.

Truck users preferred Toyota (20), Ford (12), Mazda (10), and Nissan (8).

During the month, five Toyota vans were sold, four Mazda, and two Ford vans.

For SUVs, Toyota, Honda, and Mitsubishi sold five each, Nissan had three, Kia and Suzuki had two each, while Ford and Hyundai sold one each.

To date, 579 cars, 188 trucks, 80 vans, and 200 SUVs have been sold this year.

**FOOD**

From Page 1

of yesterday afternoon, while those at Alamagan only had about a week's supply of water. Food supplies on the two islands were low, she said.

Castro said a team from the Emergency Management Office would fly to the two islands today via helicopter to augment food stock and water supply for residents. She said the Commonwealth Health Center would also send medical supplies to the three northern islands.

Songda totally destroyed two houses and blew away roofs of two other houses on Alamagan and Agrihan. The supertyphoon totally damaged the islands' crops.

On Pagan, Castro said two houses were destroyed, while a boat was totally damaged. The island, however, has food supply that is expected to last for about three months.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta lifted his typhoon condition declaration on Pagan and Agrihan on Wednesday night.

Although Songda's winds remained strong at 145mph, it was already moving away from the islands at that time. As of 7pm Wednesday, the EMO said Songda was about 140 miles north-northwest of Pagan and about 160 miles north-northwest of Alamagan.

About 1am yesterday, Songda maintained its wind strength while moving west-northwest at 17mph. The typhoon's center at that time was about 215 miles northwest of Agrihan, the EMO said. More than an hour later the governor also lifted the typhoon condition declaration for the island.

Songda, the wind strength of which reached up to 150mph, spared Saipan and Tinian from storm winds late Tuesday night to early Monday morning, with the EOC reporting no major damage resulting from the typhoon, except for the temporary evacuation of some 148 residents to Saipan shelters due to heavy rains that caused flooding.

The typhoon also caused an explosion at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. early Wednesday morning, but the utility firm managed to restore power supply by noontime to pre-Songda level.

**THE POLITICS**

From Page 11

So the question must be asked: Will the president's task force agree to real, public litigation before the presidential election? It's ugly when there is the appearance of political influence on criminal prosecutions—and, of course, even uglier when the reality exists. The legal case against me, standing alone, is a flimsy, hollow shell and reeks of politics.

I would ask James Comey and Andrew Weissmann: With justice in the balance, do you have a real case, based on the law and not on politics? Subject to the judge's schedule, meet me in court before November, and agree to a stand-alone trial, with or without a jury—your option. If you agree to a non-jury trial, the trial can begin and end before the election. It will determine not only whether the charges against me are "significant" but also whether they are "real."

**SHELTERS**

From Page 1

went back to their homes. Evacuees at the Tanapag Social Hall also moved to the Ada gym, bringing the total number of evacuees at the gym to 210.

**AUGUST**

From Page 1

last month. During the same month last year, the total sale was only 95.

CADA president Joe Guerrero said that the impressive sale increase can be attributed to various factors such as the release of rebates and refunds, good deals from dealers, and the availability of low financing or low bank loan interests, and low down payment car loans.

Some 143 residents remained sheltered at the Kagman Community Center. The Tinian gym had 75 evacuees, while the Rota Aging Center housed 14 residents.

Castro said many evacuees went home after receiving relief supplies

such as tents, tarps, cots, and blankets. She said those with destroyed homes would be given the necessary assistance, including rental of temporary houses to live in.

With the scheduled closure of the shelters, Castro said the MHS—as

year with 513 vehicles sold, followed by Joeten Motors with 301, and Triple J Motors with 233.

Microl registered a 58.82-percent sales growth compared with last year's. Joeten had a 34.98-percent increase, and Triple J Motors had 20.73 percent.

As for car brands, data showed that most people bought Toyota (30), followed by Honda (21), Nissan (9) and Kia (9), Mazda (8), Mitsubishi (4), and Hyundai (3).

Overall, Microl topped sales this

**Island Snapshots**

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor.tribune@gtpeacifica.net. To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

# Former Guam governor off hook

**HAGATNA, Guam** (PDN, PIR)—The Guam government can no longer charge former Gov. Carl Gutierrez and three others in a case that alleged use of public funds for private streetlights.

A Superior Court of Guam judge late Wednesday afternoon dismissed the criminal case with prejudice, so it cannot be refiled.

The defendants, their attorneys and more than a dozen family members and friends filled one side of the courtroom and breathed sighs of relief after Judge Richard Benson issued the decision following a three-and-a-half hour hearing.

“They finally got caught in their own web,” said a smiling Gutierrez, referring to the attorney general’s office, as he walked out of the courtroom hugging and shaking hands with supporters.

An ecstatic former Department of Administration director, Clifford Guzman, who got on his cell phone immediately after the hearing and called relatives to tell them of the decision, said, “I’m happy. It’s a load off me and my family.”

Gutierrez, Guzman, former Guam Power Authority General Manager Thelma Ann Perez, or T. Ann Perez as she is known, and former power agency board Chairman Joseph L. Cruz were indicted June 9 for allegedly authorizing the use of government funds for private streetlights. Perez, who currently lives in Nevada, and Cruz did not attend yesterday’s hearing.

Since November, the AG’s office has brought multiple indictments against the defendants—the latest one in June.

But last month the AG’s office filed a motion to dismiss the case without prejudice, citing a lack of attorneys and other staff to investigate and prosecute the case. Last Friday, Benson dismissed

the case without prejudice, which meant that the government could bring the case before the grand jury again at a later time.

On Monday, however, Benson issued a notice that said he is reconsidering his decision to dismiss without prejudice, questioning the government’s reason for its request for dismissal.

He raised concerns over the AG’s office’s claiming that it does not have the resources to prosecute the streetlights case, while at the same time pursuing a separate government corruption case against Gutierrez.

On Aug. 24, an indictment was unsealed that charges Gutierrez and former Guam Retirement Fund Director John Rios with illegal activity in connection with the Government of Guam Retirement Fund.

Benson gave government and defense attorneys yesterday an opportunity to explain why the case should be dismissed with or without prejudice. In the end, however, the judge ruled to dismiss the case with prejudice.

Benson said that although the AG’s office has cited a lack of resources to prosecute the streetlights case, he pointed out that Assistant Attorney General Lewis Littlepage has been handling it since February. The judge said he feels there is a “real reason” behind the government’s request to dismiss the case, but was not sure what it was.

He cited the history of the case and the difficulty the government has had in getting an indictment that will withstand pretrial scrutiny. Littlepage, who was the lead prosecutor in the case, said he was surprised by the decision to dismiss with prejudice, adding that the office will look into its options, including a motion for reconsideration.

“[Judge Benson] said there

are only two reasons the case is normally dismissed with prejudice. One is to harass the defendants, and he found we did not harass the defendants, and the second reason he said didn’t apply,” Littlepage said.

Littlepage maintained Wednesday that the AG’s office has asked for a dismissal in good faith, adding that it does lack resources, including attorneys.

“We will take a look at the judge’s decision when we get it

and evaluate it,” Littlepage said.

For the defendants, however, the decision was a hard-fought victory and there was hope that the case will finally be put to rest.

Attorney Jay Arriola, who is representing Cruz, said after the hearing, he contacted his client, who was relieved by the decision. “It is in some ways a vindication of the wrong-

ful prosecution,” Arriola said. “[Cruz] has been going through this for six months, waiting for his day in court, and all these different procedural victories, if you will, are kind of shallow if the case just doesn’t get over with. And that’s where this type of decision puts some finality, some closure to it. We hope this case is finally laid to rest.”

pexst

## Slaying suspect arrested

**GUAM** (PDN/PIR)—A 38-year-old man was arrested Wednesday night in connection with a shooting at a Dededo vegetable stand that claimed the lives of a teenage boy and two women—one of whom the murder suspect claims was his girlfriend.

Jose Ranny Lazado Latoza was arrested on charges of three counts aggravated murder, three counts of aggravated assault, two counts of family violence, unsworn falsification, possession of a firearm without a firearms ID, illegal transfer of a firearm and possession of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony.

He was booked and confined, said Sgt. Bonnie Suba, of the Guam Police Department’s Criminal Investigation Section.

Four people were found with gunshot wounds Aug. 11 at Kim’s Fresh Vegetable stand in Dededo.

Two women and one man were each shot in the head and died. Latoza was taken to Guam Memorial Hospital

where he was initially listed in critical condition.

Latoza was released from the hospital and was questioned by police regarding the shooting yesterday, Suba said.

Latoza told police that he was the boyfriend of one of the victims and he got into an argument with her the day of the triple homicide, Suba said.

Suba said police are looking into jealousy as one of the motives for the shooting.

But she said police could not release further details leading up to the shooting because the suspect has to go through a magistrate’s hearing.

“The case is still ongoing,” Suba said.

Although police have not officially released the victims’ names, family members have identified one of the victims as 17-year-old Mitson William. A longtime friend has said the other two victims were Kim Mai and Mai’s mother, Daily News files state.

hot city

JOETEN MOTORS KIA  
+BLUE



# Business

brown tree snake



dial rent

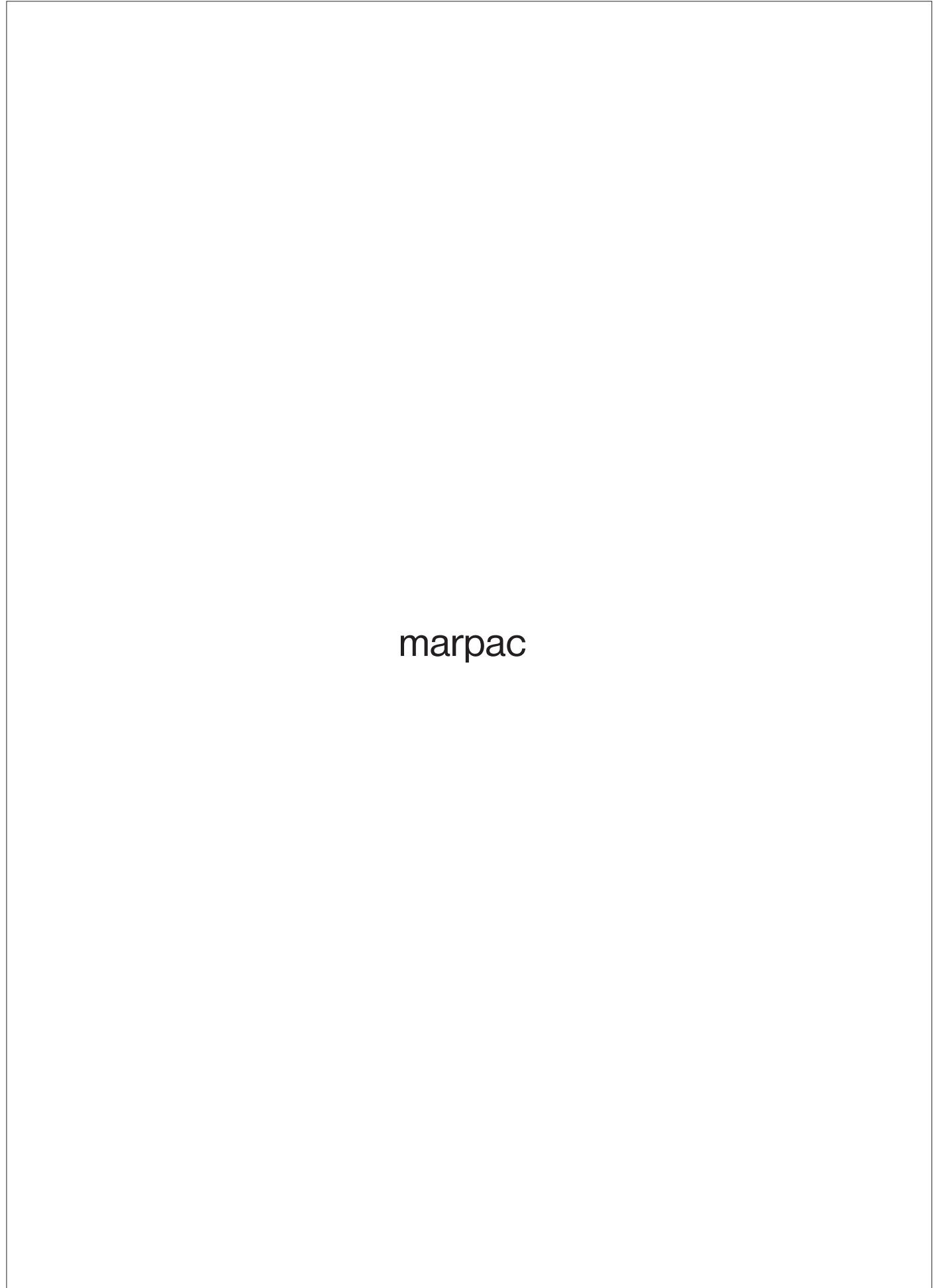
star & stripes

verizon  
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# Nation

club jama

labor



marpac

# Florida calls for hurricane evacuations

**MIAMI** (AP)—Nearly a half-million people were ordered to evacuate as Hurricane Frances swirled toward Florida on Wednesday just weeks after Charley's devastating visit, threatening to deliver the most powerful one-two punch to hit a state in at least a century.

Those planning to ride out the storm snapped up canned food, water and generators, while military helicopters and planes were flown out of the area and Cape Canaveral's Kennedy Space Center said it would close on Thursday.

Forecasters said the still-strengthening Category 4 storm could hit on Labor Day weekend as early as Friday night, less than three weeks after Charley

raked Florida's western coast with 145 mph wind, causing billions of dollars in damage and killing 27 people.

"I can't emphasize enough how powerful this is. If there's something out there that's going to weaken it, we haven't seen it," National Hurricane Center director Max Mayfield said.

Gov. Jeb Bush and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue declared states of emergency, activating the National Guard. Bush also warned more evacuations may be ordered.

Many homes in southwest Florida still have blue tarps patching holes in their roofs after Charley, and some streets remain full of storm debris that could be-

come wind-blown projectiles.

"We've just gone through 2 1/2 weeks of torture trying to get our lives back to some sense of order," said Punta Gorda retiree Tom Hamilton.

Evacuation orders were posted for 300,000 residents in coastal areas of Palm Beach County, and nearly 200,000 were told to leave mobile homes and low-lying areas of Brevard, Martin and Indian River counties, which could be hit by tremendous ocean waves. The evacuation orders were set to take effect Thursday afternoon.

Frances was about 625 miles east-southeast of southeastern Florida Wednesday night, heading west-northwest near

14 mph. Residents of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina watched the forecast closely in case Frances took a sharper turn to the north.

The hurricane's forward speed was forecast to decrease over the next 24 hours, meaning its powerful winds and drenching rains could linger over wherever it hits.

Bush cautioned that "all the science in the world and all the technology in the world isn't going to be able to pinpoint exactly where the storm goes."

Frances would be the fourth storm to affect Charleston, S.C., this summer. Bonnie and Charley arrived within days of each other in August, and Gaston dumped more than 13 inches of

rain in some areas when it came ashore Sunday.

With the ground saturated from previous storms, more rain and the slightest wind could cut utility service for thousands, even if they don't take a direct hit from the storm.

"With the ground this wet, trees could easily topple," said Tom Williams, a spokesman for Duke Power in Charlotte, N.C.

The storm and the mass evacuations are sure to spoil Labor Day outings and make a mess of holiday travel across the Southeast. Florida may reverse lanes on some highways to handle the evacuation traffic, state Emergency Management Director Craig Fugate said.

If Frances hits, it could be the most potent two-hurricane combination to hit a single state in at least a century of record-keeping. Frances is as strong as Charley, but forecasters said it could become a Category 5 with winds of 156 mph or higher.

Hurricane-force winds extended about 80 miles from Frances' center, making it about twice the width of Charley and increasing the possibility for damage.

The last time two major hurricanes hit Florida in rapid succession was 1950. Hurricane Easy struck Tampa around Sept. 4 of that year and Hurricane King hit Miami six weeks later on Oct. 17. They were Category 3 storms, smaller than Charley or Frances.

## US tightens security on flights for Russia

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Two airlines that fly from Moscow to the United States must check passengers and their carryon bags for bombs, according to a government order Wednesday, one week after suspected terrorists crashed two Russian planes.

"The U.S. has determined it's prudent to take additional security measures to increase the protection of flights between the U.S. and Russia until we have more information to assess the situation," said Amy von Walter, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration.

The airlines affected are Delta Air Lines and Aeroflot Russian Airlines, which fly to the United States four times a day from Sheremetyevo International Airport, a Homeland Security Department official said. Aeroflot has direct flights from Moscow to New York, Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Delta of-

fers daily flights between Moscow and New York.

The two planes that crashed on Aug. 25 after near-simultaneous explosions, killing all 90 people on board, had left Moscow's Domodedovo Airport on domestic flights. The planes belonged to the Russian airline Sibir and a small regional airline, Volga-Aviaexpress.

Delta and Aeroflot were ordered to conduct tests of all passengers and their bags for explosives using various technologies, von Walter said. The airlines also must conduct more thorough screening of all cargo put aboard passenger planes, she said.

Airlines must take additional security precautions around the aircraft when they are at the Moscow airport, and they must inspect the aircraft before passengers board, said a Homeland Security Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

## Kerry: Terrorists gain from Bush's blunders

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—John Kerry said Wednesday that terrorists have gained new havens and "extremism has gained momentum" in Iraq because President Bush has mishandled virtually every step of the war.

"Our differences could not be plainer, and I have set them out consistently," the Democratic presidential candidate told veterans at the American Legion national convention. "When it comes to Iraq, it's not that I would have done one thing differently, I would have done everything differently."

Kerry delivered his critical assessment of the administration's performance in Iraq as

the GOP mustered in New York City to nominate Bush to a second term. Challengers typically refrain from major campaigning during the other party's nominating convention.

Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran and Legionnaire, said Bush's actions before and after U.S. military operations have failed to make Iraq a safe and stable place.

"Today, terrorists have secured havens in Iraq that were not there before, and we have been forced to reach accommodation with those who have repeatedly attacked our troops," he said. "Violence has spread in Iraq, Iran has expanded its influence, and extremism has gained momentum."



Kerry

saipan ice

**shell**

## Va. flooding damages buildings, kills 7

**RICHMOND, Va.** (AP)—Police and fire officials escorted Richmond residents and business owners into their flood-ravaged homes and shops Wednesday, but only to allow them to retrieve pets and essentials such as prescription drugs.

Flooding touched off by the remnants of Tropical Storm Gaston on Monday left at least seven people dead in Virginia and devastated a historic Richmond district that was the heart of the Confederate capital during the Civil War.

Cleanup and restoration in the Shockoe Bottom neighborhood of restaurants, shops and loft apartments will have to wait a day or so until the buildings are deemed safe, said City Manager Calvin Jamison. He said 19 of 230 buildings inspected by mid-day were condemned.

The damage was estimated at a preliminary \$15 million and is likely to go higher.

Shops and restaurants were a watery, mud-caked mess Wednesday, and cars that had crashed into each other as they washed down streets were mired in mud or overturned.

Tonya Entzminger, 31, retrieved an armful of clothes, a mesh bag containing shoes, her cell phone and a muddy purse from her first-floor apartment.

"It looks like Armageddon," she said. "I'm lucky to be alive."

Entzminger said she left in haste when a fire alarm sounded during the storm Monday. On her return, she found her refrigerator had floated across the apartment and blocked the front door, and it took three men to force the door open.

Entzminger said she also lost

her car, which was found in a stack of cars with one underneath it and another on top of it.

Entzminger didn't know how she would recover.

"I didn't get renter's insurance. I guess I'll get it now," she said.

The sixth and seventh confirmed victims were found Wednesday, more than a day after the heavy rains ended and floodwaters receded.

Authorities in Dinwiddie County, south of Richmond, found the body of a person who they said was swept away in rushing water.

Earlier in the day, a woman's body was found in a wooded area east of the city, after she apparently was swept away while driving. The other victims included two people who may have been part of a human chain trying to reach people stuck inside a van.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Truck crashes into Tenn. eatery, 1 dead

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—A parked tractor-trailer rolled down a hill and crashed into a hamburger stand Wednesday, killing a woman and injuring three other people, including the truck's driver.

The driver had parked the 18-wheeler in a lot before walking about 25 yards to Rally's Hamburgers to place an order, police said.

A customer was killed when she was trapped between the truck and a car in the drive-through line. Her name was not immediately released.

A pregnant 14-year-old girl, who was seriously hurt, and a man were sent to hospitals, police said. The driver, who was in line at the walk-up window, suffered minor injuries.

Kuhn said rescue crews used inflatable bags to separate the vehicles and free two people temporarily stuck under the truck.

Two adults and two children in the car struck by the truck escaped injury, police said.

### Jet evacuated in Minn. after fire scare

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Forty-four passengers were evacuated from a Mesaba Airlines jet on Wednesday after passengers saw what they thought was smoke in the rear of the cabin.

The 69-seat regional jet was taxiing toward a runway for takeoff when a hydraulic line failure caused hydraulic fluid to form a mist in the air, said Mesaba Airlines spokesman Dave Jackson.

"To a passenger, that might be perceived as smoke," Jackson said. He said there was no fire.

The crew inflated emergency exit slides and the passengers and the four crew members evacuated. One passenger was cut on the arm during the evacuation, Jackson said.

The passengers, who were heading to Fargo, N.D., were being rebooked on other flights Wednesday night.

### Coroner: 7 likely died in fiery Wyo. crash

**CHEYENNE, Wyo.** (AP)—Two weeks after a series of fiery chain collisions on a fog-shrouded highway in southeastern Wyoming, authorities raised their estimated death toll from four to seven Monday.

The number, based on recovered remains and people still reported missing, could change based on DNA tests. Results were expected over the next week, Albany County Coroner Julie Heggie said.

Heat intense enough to melt asphalt complicated attempts to recover remains and vehicles and determine exactly what happened Aug. 19 on Interstate 80 near Laramie.

The first pileup destroyed seven tractor-trailers and three cars. Six crashes followed involving another 25 vehicles. The Wyoming Highway Patrol said 38 people were injured.

Authorities believe they recovered four bodies from the wreckage. Burrows said the three missing people might never be linked conclusively to the crashes.

### Kin of 9/11 victims rally at ground zero

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Relatives of some of the World Trade Center victims rallied at ground zero Wednesday to urge the city to remove the ashen remains of their loved ones from a landfill where debris was sorted after the terrorist attack.

"We are here to send our message out to the entire nation and to the international community that this indignity against the dead will not be tolerated," said Diane Horning of Scotch Plains, N.J., whose son, Matthew, was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

Horning's group, WTC Families for Proper Burial, was formed after the city announced plans to develop Staten Island's Fresh Kills landfill, where trade center debris was taken, into a park.

VERIZON  
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NMHC

# Asia

shell back to school  
cmyk

# Nepal imposes curfew in capita

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP)—Nepal's government imposed an indefinite curfew and appealed for calm Wednesday after thousands of demonstrators ransacked a mosque and clashed with police in the capital to protest the slaying of 12 Nepalese hostages by Iraqi militants.

One demonstrator died late Wednesday after being wounded during the clashes, said doctors at the Bir Hospital in Katmandu. Three more protesters were in serious condition.

"We want revenge," the protesters shouted as they stormed the Jame mosque—the only Muslim house of worship in the capital. They broke windows and set fire to carpets, furniture and parts of the building. No one was inside at the time. Police fired tear gas

in an unsuccessful attempt to disperse the mob.

Protesters also attacked the offices of at least two dozen agencies that send workers abroad, throwing furniture and documents into the streets and burning buildings.

Hours after the rioting broke out, the government imposed an indefinite curfew and warned that violators would be shot on sight. Army helicopters hovered over Katmandu while soldiers patrolled the streets.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba called for calm in an address on state-run Nepal Television.

"Terrorists have no religion or caste. That is why I appeal to all Nepalese not to be misguided by the cruel and inhuman acts of the terrorists and be provoked against any community," Deuba

said. "I urge everyone to have patience, show tolerance and unity at this hour of grief."

By early evening, the city was quiet.

A gruesome video posted on a Web site Tuesday showed militants slitting the neck of one Nepalese worker and shooting 11 others. The 12 contract workers had disappeared soon after entering Iraq from Jordan on Aug. 19.

The prime minister said the government was trying to locate their bodies so they could be shipped home.

The protesters accused the government of not doing enough to secure the release of the victims. The prime minister, however, said the government tried its best to get the hostages freed through the media



AP

Protesters attack a burning mosque in Katmandu, Nepal, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2004.

## RP scores killing of Nepalese hostages

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine government, which withdrew its troops from Iraq to save the life of a kidnapped Filipino, on Thursday condemned the killings of 12 Nepalese hostages by Iraqi militants and called for calm following riots in Nepal.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said "nothing can justify such acts of terrorism" as he appealed for "sobriety and calm among the Nepalese people following the reported attack on a mosque in their country."

The Philippines recalled its small peacekeep-

ing contingent from Iraq two months ago in a move criticized by the United States, Australia and other allies as a concession to terrorists who threatened to behead a Filipino truck driver.

The government says its priority is to save Filipino lives.

In Nepal, protesters accused the government Wednesday of not doing enough to secure the release of the 12 hostages. The angry mob stoned buildings and blocked traffic by burning tires at main intersections and ransacked a mosque. Two demonstrators died in clashes with police.

and diplomatic channels.

The government said the families of the victims would receive 1 million rupees (about \$14,400) each and it declared Thursday a day of mourning, saying offices and schools

would be closed all day.

Iraqi militants have taken more than 100 foreigners hostage in recent months.

Nepal, which has no troops in Iraq, has long banned its citizens from working there because of

security concerns. However, many people from the poor Himalayan nation take jobs abroad and 17,000 Nepalese are believed to have slipped into Iraq—many working as armed security guards for foreign contractors.

## US probes Afghan civilian casualties

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—The U.S. military was investigating Wednesday whether American forces killed civilians during the latest battle with militants which has marred the run-up to vital Afghan elections.

The military had earlier dismissed claims by Afghan officials and an international aid group that several villagers died Monday from U.S. air strikes in a remote valley of Kunar province. However, a military spokeswoman said Wednesday the U.S. investigation of the incident was not yet complete.

"We have no specific reports at this time of any civilian casualties caused by the coalition forces," Lt. Col. Susan Meisner said. "We are currently conduct-

ing an inquiry into the matter and will provide more information as soon as it becomes available."

Still, officials lifted some of the gloom Wednesday by declaring the Afghan capital free of heavy weapons in time for the Oct. 9 elections. They urged the country's feuding militias to help reconstruct the country.

"Bulldozers should replace tanks and cannons," Deputy Defense Minister Rahim Wardak told militia commanders and U.S. and NATO officials in a compound north of Kabul containing dozens of tanks and artillery pieces. "AK-47's and pistols should make way for saws and axes."

The U.S. military investiga-

tion was focusing on clashes Monday that killed more than a dozen militants in Kunar. Two Americans and one Afghan soldier were wounded in the battle, officials said.

Planes helped counter insurgents who fired rockets and mortar rounds on American and Afghan camps near Mano Gai, 105 miles east of Kabul.

According to Kunar Gov. Sayed Fazel Akbar, U.S. planes responded to fire from a village called Weradesh and the aerial bombardment killed five civilians.

The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees reiterated that it believed eight villagers had been killed in the bombing.

## China reports births of two giant pandas

**BEIJING** (AP)—For pandas, it's practically a baby boom. Two giant pandas were born this week, and mothers and cubs were doing fine, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

Giant pandas have a notoriously low rate of fertility, so the two births at the Wulong Nature Reserve, in southwestern China's Sichuan province, were cause for celebration.

Leilei, a 15-year-old giant panda, gave birth to a cub early Monday. Just an hour later, a 14-year-old panda known as

No. 20 delivered a second cub, Xinhua said.

"Both adult pandas seem to like their babies very much," Xinhua quoted Huang Yan, deputy chief engineer at Wulong, as saying. "They have been holding their cubs since birth and won't let them go, so we can't determine their sex or weight."

Another cub, born Aug. 25 to an 11-year-old panda named Eryatou, or "second daughter" in Chinese, died after a difficult 15 hours of labor that also endangered the mother

panda's life, Xinhua said. It said experts had used traditional herbal medicines to help prevent infection and ensure Eryatou would be able to reproduce in the future.

The report said Chinese zoologists have been successful in improving the birth rate of giant pandas in captivity, with more than 90 percent of artificially bred pandas surviving.

About 1,600 giant pandas survive in the wild, mostly in the mountains in southwestern China. Some 160 live in captivity.

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**ASIAN***Briefs*

# Asia

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## THE COOLSCIENTIST

# Turning resonant fields into money

Wasn't it exciting to learn that the entire universe is made of just one kind of stuff in our first CoolScientist lesson? Yes, Resonant Fields, following a basic set of field interaction rules, are configured in a variety of dynamic geometries, maintained by force, which make up everything in the universe, and manufacture every action and reaction.

The goal of this series is not to explain resonant fields in great detail. That is already available in the electronic book *Resonant Fields, the Fundamental Mechanism of Physics, Made Easy To Understand* available online from [www.cooldscience.info](http://www.cooldscience.info). Rather, my goal is to whet your appetite for advanced science by showing that it is not mystical, but understandable, exceedingly valuable, and exciting. In each lesson, I hope to introduce you to something new and/or economically significant.

In this lesson, we will find out how even a small college can qualify for grant money by investigating things from this new viewpoint. Such forward-looking schools also have a rare opportunity to become special centers of advanced learning by fitting resonant fields into their curriculums. In short, we will find out how to turn resonant fields into money!

Like water building up behind a dam, many disciplines thirst for working, understandable, and basic explanations of how things interact with each other. Biologists want to know how RNA and DNA in living cells manufacture life. NASA would like to know what makes things move in orbit. Computer companies would like to know how to build computers that operate 100,000 times faster. Industrialists would like to know how to build things one atom at a time. And schools and students would like to know how to prepare for the future. There is not an area of science that will not be affected by the Resonant Field Theory.

Most scientists will be surprised to find out that there even is a "fundamental mechanism of physics." That's because they have been led to believe that the universe is basically random, and that the mathematical formulae that predict how things work are merely statistical averages of random



By JOHN N. HAIT

events. However, this view has been shown to be obsolete. Instead, each interaction is manufactured by coded resonant fields.

Energy flow in force field structures (everything) follows a consistent set of repeating patterns. When two field structures touch, they present to each other a series of field wavelength-long configurations coded by their phase, quantum amplitude, and polarization. When different codes from each structure combine, they produce a new pattern, like when Mom and Pop made you!

This combining of field flow patterns produces all of the things we observe. They always get it right, and they never forget how to do it. This is hardly a random process. If it were, it would almost never get it right, and it would have no way of remembering how to do it.

Hence, there are many classical experiments that need to be repeated so that we can gain a greater understanding of this fundamental process. Each element (type of atom) has its own flow pattern. These patterns need to be mapped. Like any map, it tells you where to go and how to get there.

That's why we need to map the energy flow, the "DNA code" as it were, of each element. Once we have a map of each one, we will then be able to determine how to combine things that are "impossible" to combine now. We will also understand how to use projected fields to manipulate atoms, and interconnect them in ways that are inconceivable now.

Thus field flow mapping has become a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for schools, professors, and students. In some cases it may be the key to financial security in an age of tight budgets.

Now that's exciting, isn't it!

To ask questions, catch up on previous lessons, and get further information go to [www.cooldscience.info](http://www.cooldscience.info) on the Internet.

## Oh, to be back in college with today's tech toys

By JOHN MORAN  
THE HARTFORD COURANT

As much as I enjoyed my college days, I have no desire to go back.

Late-night studying, cafeteria food, cramped quarters, the strange bedfellows known as roommates—these are experiences I'd rather remember than relive.

The one thing that could tempt me is the idea of going to college with the help of today's technology. Sometimes I like to imagine what I'd bring.

What a wonderland of choices. Scores of gadgets are marketed under the guise of educational technology. Buy them all, and you could easily fill up a dorm room and empty a college fund.

But my imaginary dorm room would feature a relative handful of multipurpose devices, saving space and money for other (ahem) educational pursuits.

Because a laptop computer is all but essential to today's college students, I'd make that the centerpiece of my tech suite. But I wouldn't spend a fortune, and I wouldn't worry much about who makes it.

This laptop—or notebook, if you prefer—would have several key features.

First, I'd make sure that it ran

the operating system recommended by my college or university. Some like Windows XP Home Edition or Professional; others suggest Windows 2000. Indeed, some schools specify the entire laptop, hardware and software, so they can standardize. Do whatever they suggest.

I'd aim for a hard drive of 40 gigabytes (30 gigabytes in a pinch) and a combo DVD/CD-RW drive. Bigger hard drives ensure that there's plenty of space for software and digital music. And when I wasn't watching DVDs in my dorm room, I'd use the CD-RW drive to back up my homework in case the computer was ever damaged or stolen.

I'd also make sure the laptop had a network card and Wi-Fi capability built-in. The network card would let me connect easily to the university's wired network. The Wi-Fi link would take advantage of free wireless Internet connections that are increasingly common in libraries, student union buildings and other campus hangouts.

Next come the peripherals. A cheap inkjet printer with plenty of ink cartridges would ensure that I could easily print out assignments, even if I had to pull an all-nighter to finish them. A scanner would help me minimize paperwork by digitiz-

ing class handouts. A decent set of computer speakers would let my notebook double as an inexpensive stereo, as well as a TV (remember that DVD player).

Finally, I'd add a hot cell-phone—one that included a digital camera, a digital organizer, e-mail and a decent package of free minutes. Such phones allow you to stay connected without lugging that notebook computer everywhere you go.

It sounds like a lot of tech and it is. But with just a bit of shopping, you should be able to keep things well under \$2,000 and perhaps under \$1,500. Thousands of options are out there, but one quick example may serve to illustrate the point.

As I write this, Dell is offering a notebook computer for less than \$1,000 that meets all of my specifications, and includes a free printer. For \$50 more, you can get the printer with a built-in scanner. Figure \$100 for good PC speakers. If I were feeling flush, I might even splurge on the hot new Hewlett-Packard iPAQ h6315 cellphone/PDA/camera/MP3 player available through T-Mobile for \$500. Total bill: \$1,650.

Not cheap, but then neither is college. And it's a lot of power for less than most desktops once cost. Almost enough to make a guy want to go back to college.

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+red/blue

## Life & Style

# How do I love Saipan? Let me count the ways



This child looks for sea-shells and other oddities washed ashore along the beach on Beach Road.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

BY ALDWIN R. FAJARDO  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**LOSANGELES, California—**

It was Monday, May 3, 2004, 7:30am, when the clock pierced the silence inside the Wilshire Boulevard flat occupied only by three suitcases of clothes and personal belongings, an inflatable bed, a laptop computer, and me. Thirty minutes, tops, was all I had to hit the shower and get dressed—yes, no morning coffee—to catch the 8am Metro Bus that would take me from Normandie Avenue to Western Boulevard where I would take the Dash Bus that would take me at least two blocks from an office along Beverly Boulevard where I worked as PR consultant.

From the bus station, I'd have to walk at least two blocks to buy me a cup of Starbucks cafe latte, which I sip on my way to the office. Besides the time, the direction, and the café latte (it's a cup of Starbucks mocha frap in the PM), it's always been the same routine in the afternoon as I get off from work around 6pm.

It seems an ordinary routine for a young professional based in a big city like Los Angeles. It is, however, a completely different pattern for someone who's used to the slow-paced, stress-free, and traffic jam-free island life on Saipan where my workday usually starts at 1pm, which gave me the luxury of getting up at 9am, brew my own coffee, watch TV, shower, and dress up. By the time I leave Unit B-115 of Fina Sisu Terrace Apartments courtesy of my company-issued Mazda 929, it's already almost lunch time. There have been times that I get to see Shirley's Coffee Shop along Middle Road and its friendly wait staff first before my own news team.

Those were the days!

Now, it's buckle down to real hard work in a bigger, real-life jungle where dog eats dog; where board and lodging are not offered to employees for free; where transportation is the worker's own responsibility; and where work schedule is almost always not flexible. Not for me in my PR job, at least. It's either I am at the office 5 minutes before 9am and 5 minutes after 6pm or my paycheck will suffer. I can't afford to see that coming. I have a monthly rent to pay, mouths (my own and some back in the Philippines) to feed, and clothes to buy (the last one being the most important).

Seriously, though, I used to ask why mainlanders go

to Saipan to live and work. I thought that maybe they are just unable to make it in the highly competitive labor market in the US. I don't ask the same question anymore. Although there may really be a few of them who simply don't have the "it" to make it through the tough mainland life, I am sure that majority of them, mainlanders, on Saipan are on the island simply because nothing beats a good life in paradise.

Like them, I have learned to make the island my home. I love a lot of things about Saipan. Let me count the ways:

1. I love the way it gave me enough time to pick which shirt I should wear to work and with what pants, shoes and bag;

2. I love the way it helped me catch up with my favorite TV programs, thanks, most part, to the time difference and the week-long delay in the telecast of US shows;

3. I love the way I get to brew my own coffee before I hit the shower in the morning;

4. I love the way it allowed me to develop true friendships;

5. I love the way it gave me the chance to grow—professionally;

6. I love the way it helped me learn from my mistakes;

7. I love the way it made consuming half-chicken or an entire serving of crispy pata with lots of fried rice normal;

8. I love the way I got free facial treatment from Ate Guy and free massage from Tina;

9. I love the way I could tap the assistance of tech experts to fix my computer problems sans the fee;

10. I love the way I was able to drive an executive car, to the resentment of others;

11. I love the way I got free food from POI;

12. I love the way I was able to drive from my apartment to the office in less than 10 minutes;

13. I love the way I danced with friends at the Gilligan's, and TGIT later on;

14. I love the way I was able to build a good lineup of wardrobe without hurting my pocket (\$3 for a piece of signature shirt! Who can beat that and where?!);

15. I love the way it provided a place where I could meet someone really special;

16. I love the way I could never run out of things to say why I love the island;

17. But most of all, I love Saipan because it takes good care of my HONEY who happened to have also fallen in love with the island.

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cmyk



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“The unabashedly liberal Moore clearly has an agenda with Fahrenheit 9/11. It can’t be coincidence that it was released in the thick of the race for the presidential election.”

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By JOE WEINDL  
Special to the  
Saipan Tribune

# Princess culture enters its golden age

By MARY McNAMARA  
2004, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Where once they stood alone, now they are united, their faces smiling up from T-shirts and backpacks in small groups like particularly well-coifed members of the Justice League. They host teas and birthday parties, hold classes in animal husbandry and geography, have their own color scheme including a signature paint available at Home

El Capitan Theater sold out weeks before the movie premiered. Those teas and other princess-themed events have become popular permanent additions to Walt Disney World attractions. In Japan, princess classes, which began in Tokyo three years ago as an attempt to introduce the new princess brand, have spread to five cities—last year, more than 15,000 girls paid \$150 a pop to learn from Snow White how to love animals or from Ariel how to sing.

**“The princess brand is all about fantasy,” adds Mary Beech, director of franchise management for Disney Princess. “It’s transformational and allows the girls to be in charge, and in real life, children aren’t in charge of very much. ”**

Depot. Their influence over fashion is incalculable—their clothing and accessories coveted by and reproduced for millions of fans. They are about to launch their own line of personal care products.

They are the Disney Princesses and their goal is world domination.

In 2004, 23 years since the publication of “The Cinderella Complex: Women’s Hidden Fear of Independence,” princess culture is entering what can only be considered its Golden Age. In the three years since Disney executives decided to consolidate Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Ariel (“The Little Mermaid”), Belle (“Beauty and the Beast”) and Jasmine (“Aladdin”) into one brand, princess merchandise sales have skyrocketed from \$200 million in 2000 to \$2 billion last year.

In Los Angeles, Disney Princess teas held in conjunction with the release of “Princess Diaries 2” at the

And princesses don’t just rule the Disney kingdom. As the media serves up stories of middle- and upper-class mothers bowing out of the workplace in search of new family values, females of every age now sport crowns and tiaras and T-shirts proclaiming their temperamental if not dynastic claim to the word. Princess costumes and accoutrement remain top sellers at toy stores everywhere. Barbie and her many full-size accessories are available in fairy tale and international princess form. Recent movies such as “Ella Enchanted,” “The Prince & Me,” “A Cinderella Story” and now “Princess Diaries 2” have hauled out all the time-honored symbols of the mythology—the jewels, the dresses, the handsome boyfriend and, of course, all that dancing.

The films, like the books many are based on, all have slight post-feminist twists, but they still adhere to the basic

princess ethos: You may think for the moment that you are a normal, powerless girl plagued by mean friends and nagging parents/stepparents, but really you are a princess, with liberation and a truly excellent wardrobe just a few plot points away.

“Whether feminists like it or not,” says Gary Foster, spokesman for Disney consumer products, “at some point in their lives, most girls want to be a princess.”

“The princess brand is all about fantasy,” adds Mary Beech, director of franchise management for Disney Princess. “It’s transformational and allows the girls to be in charge, and in real life, children aren’t in charge of very much.”

Foster and Beech may have a bit of a bias, but they are merely echoing the sentiments of psychologist Bruno Bettelheim in his groundbreaking 1985 book, “The Uses of Enchantment.” “Every child at some time wishes that he were a prince or a princess,” he wrote, “and at times, in his unconscious, the child believes he is one, only temporarily degraded by circumstances.”

Contemporary fairy tale experts concur. “The princess myth is very tempting,” says Maria Tatar, dean of humanities at Harvard University and author of “The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales” and “The Annotated Brothers Grimm.” “You start out as disempowered and by becoming royalty you don’t have to do the work, you get everything you want.”

Wish-fulfillment story lines fuel many of the books and films aimed at tween and teen girls, which gives princess culture the staying power it needs to transcend the fairy tale reading years. In the preadolescent and adolescent years, many girls are beset by self-doubt, and they look



LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's tiaras and tea sandwiches at a tea party offered with “The Princess Diaries 2” at the El Capitan Theater in Los Angeles.

to transformative narratives to give them hope and confidence.

The “rags-to-riches story is everywhere these days,” says Rachel Simmons, author of “Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls.” “All the teen and tween movies are about girls who go from being unloved and uncool to being incredibly popular. Which is what happens to princesses.”

Certainly at Disney, it was all about selling pretty things. In 1999, when former Nike executive Andy Mooney joined the company as chairman of consumer products, he was faced with flat-lining Mickey and Pooh brands. When he challenged his staff to come up with the next big thing, “Think pink” was the unanimous answer. According to Foster, a colleague took Mooney to Disney on Ice, which featured several of the princesses. The audience was full of little girls in full princess get-up; Mooney saw the future, and it involved a lot of tulle. Soon enough, test marketing was being done in Disney stores on signature pink and purple merchandise featuring the six core princesses. (In some items, Pocahontas and Mulan are included; although they are not technically princesses, Beech explains, their stories hit most of the necessary transformative notes.) The results were so successful the merchandise moved into wider markets, from Toys R Us to Target, and there were murmurings of a face-off between the princesses and Barbie, still the No. 1 girl franchise. Barbie, of course, has several princess lines; next month, Mattel will debut a Barbie Princess and Pauper computer game.

“It’s a lifestyle rather than a toy line,” says Beech of the Disney Princess brand, which now can be found on items including bandages, toothbrushes and umbrellas.

Products include tapes and personal care.

LOS ANGELES TIMES



## Longtime client wants to pull the plug on hairdresser's tv

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** "Mr. Eugene" has been my hairdresser for nearly 20 years. We have seen each other through divorces, deaths, recovery from alcoholism (me), and life struggles in general. Mr. Eugene used to be a great hairdresser. The problem began when he installed a little television set at his station. He keeps it on all the time and watches it almost constantly. He watches it while cutting my hair, pausing every so often to pay closer attention to what's on TV.

The quality of my haircuts has started to decline, and along with it, our client/hairdresser relationship. I'm about ready to change hairdressers because I can't find the nerve to reach over and turn the darn thing off or tell him how annoying it is, and how much better a hairdresser he is when he pays full attention to what he's doing.

Please print this so Mr. Eugene will read it and give his clients the attention we deserve.

SPINELESS IN LEXINGTON, KY.

**DEAR SPINELESS:** Mr. Eugene is only a hairdresser. He is not a mind reader. Since you haven't voiced an objection to his cutting and styling your hair with one eye on the boob-tube, how can he be expected to know you have a problem with it?

**Try this:** Rather than criticize him, tell him that you would prefer that he leave the TV set off while working on you, because you miss the quality time you used to spend together. You might be surprised to find that he takes it as a compliment.

**DEAR ABBY:** I became engaged last Christmas. I have been planning my wedding with the help of my mother and my fiance's mother. I love them both, and they are helping to pay for my big day.

My problem is that every time I disagree with them, they call me "Bridezilla." I don't think I'm too demanding or hard to please. I just have ideas, tastes and expectations that may be different from my two mothers'.

This horrible stereotype is ruining the planning. I become devastated when they refer to me in that way, and end up giving in so I don't seem to be unreasonable.

Please help me. I am ending up with a wedding that isn't what I want. What should I do?

NOT BRIDEZILLA IN L.A.

**DEAR NOT BRIDEZILLA:** It is wrong of your mother and your fiance's mother to call you names. However, since they are helping to fund the wedding, you can't blame them for wanting a meaningful voice in the planning. If you feel your dream wedding has been hijacked, then you should politely draw the line and finance it yourself.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in a live-in relationship with a man I'll call Howard. Last year, I began quietly seeing "Adam." Howard found out about the affair a few months later, but didn't want us to break up.

I decided to stay with Howard even though I am in love with Adam, because I can't support myself on my own. After that, Adam decided it would be best if we stopped seeing each other. I know he's right, but I'd really like to talk to him. Right now, I'm agonizing over whether to call him.

When I ask my family or friends for advice, they say I should move on and get over Adam, because I'm only 21 and have my whole life ahead of me. The truth is, I can't let go so easily. It has been about four months since we last spoke. Should I call Adam, and if I do, what should I say?

CLUELESS IN VEGAS

**DEAR CLUELESS:** Listen to your family and friends; they have your best interests at heart. In the meantime, I strongly recommend that you take a breather before going another round with anyone. Do not call Adam until you have left Howard and become self-supporting. That way, he will know you are not after him for a meal ticket, too.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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*Dear Abby*

# OutKast's Andre 3000 drops in on RNC

NEW YORK (AP)—A day after Jenna Bush gave Republicans a pop-culture lesson by dropping OutKast's name, half the hip hop duo showed up at the GOP convention to encourage young people to vote.

Andre Benjamin, better known to his fans as Andre 3000, came by Madison Square Garden on Wednesday to do interviews for a documentary he's making for HBO on his transformation from an

apolitical musician to a voter-registration activist.

"This is my first vote," Benjamin, 29, told The Associated Press.

The film complements Benjamin's activities with "Declare Yourself," a nonpartisan group that's raised millions to try to get young people to the polls.

Earlier in the day he interviewed Jenna and Barbara Bush—who he said surprised him by mentioning

his group in their convention speech Tuesday.

Jenna offered OutKast as evidence that her parents "are actually kind of cool."

"When we tell them we're going to see OutKast, they know it's a band and not a bunch of misfits," she said.

Benjamin said it was a "great tack."

"If you're on the team of the Republicans I think it was smart to do," Benjamin said.

"Cause some people, they don't care. They're just like: Hey, I want to go to where all the cool people are."

Rumors that OutKast would perform at a convention-related event have sent Benjamin into "damage control" mode.

"What I'm doing is nonpartisan," said Benjamin, who also was at the Democratic National Convention and interviewed John Kerry's daughters.

"I just want people to vote."

## Paris Hilton

NEW YORK (AP)—Reality television star and ubiquitous socialite Paris Hilton has created a jewelry line of pink sparkles, stars and hearts.

The Paris Hilton Collection, with pieces ranging in price from \$15 to \$95, is available online at Amazon.com. It includes earrings, bracelets, necklaces, a belly chain and a belly bar, all in sterling silver and pink crystal.

"I just looked into my style and looked through my jewelry and things I liked and used that when I was designing and sketching," Hilton told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Hilton, 23, worked with a designer and modeled the jewelry shown on the Web site.

"I thought my fans would want to have part of me, something I designed," she said. "A young girl is able to afford it; it looks expensive but it's not."

Eager fans can also buy a copy of her memoir, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Chic Peek Behind the Pose,"

## designs new line of jewelry



AP  
Paris Hilton poses for photographer Marc Baptiste, wearing one of her designs, the Multi-Cross Necklace, as she launches a jewelry line exclusively at the Amazon.com Jewelry Store, in this undated publicity photo, location unknown.

to be published Tuesday by Fireside, and the DVD of the first season of her reality TV show, "The Simple Life."

Hilton, whose beloved pet

Chihuahua, Tinkerbell, was missing for a week last month, bristled at the suggestion that she's able to design jewelry and record an upcoming CD merely

because she's a socialite.

"I have a great line of jewelry and I have a great voice," she said. "The product is there, so people can't say anything."

## Georgia Music Hall to honor Charles

ATLANTA (AP)—The late Ray Charles and Bill Lowery will be honored by the Georgia Music Hall of Fame Sept. 18 during a ceremony when the hall also will induct four new members.

The ceremony will be a tribute to famed singer Charles and music publisher and entrepreneur Lowery, both of whom died this year. Both were members of the first group to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1979.

"Georgia has a rich music heritage and an event like this brings that history and our great talent into the spotlight," said Greg Torre, director of the Georgia Department of Economic Development's office of film, video and music.

A group that includes radio pioneer Hugh Jarrett, keyboardist Chuck Leavell, composer Mary Lou Williams and opera singer Mattiwilda Dobbs will receive the GEORGY Award for their contributions to Georgia's music heritage.

Jarrett started in the music industry in the 1950s with a group known as the Jordanaires, the back group for Elvis Presley. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1999.

## Bosnians to build a monument to Bruce Lee

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—In Bosnia, where one man's hero is often another man's villain, some citizens have decided to honor a man that Serbs, Croats and Muslims can all look up to—kung fu great Bruce Lee.

Lee is best remembered for taking on dozens of bad guys in a series of kung fu films, including 1973's "Enter the Dragon."

But the statue of the Chinese action hero in the ethnically divided city of Mostar is intended to remind people of Lee's lesser known values—"loyalty, friendship, skill and justice," said Veselin Gatalo, a writer who

helped come up with the idea.

"Lee is a true international hero and is a hero to all ethnicities in Bosnia and that's why we picked him," Gatalo said.

Gatalo and a friend, Nino Raspudic, grew up on Bruce Lee movies. They persuaded Boris Jovanovic, a sculptor from Mostar, to create the statue of Lee "as if he was alive and kicking."

They hope to install the statue by November. The site is symbolic—the Spanish Square, in the center of the city, some 45 miles south of the capital Sarajevo.

Mostar was both physically and psychologically scarred in Bosnia's 1992-95 war, which

killed hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Croats and Muslims and left the country divided into a Serb republic and a Muslim-Croat federation.

Even now, Roman Catholic Croats and Muslims still live apart, sending their children to different schools, watching their own TV stations and cheering for rival soccer teams.

Gatalo, an ethnic Croat, hopes the statue will help erase the city's tarnished image as a place of bitter ethnic rivalries.

"We want that people, when you say Mostar, to respond, 'That's the city that has a monument to Bruce Lee,'" he said.

## Knight's life may be new sitcom

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—The life and times of Bobby Knight could soon be inside America's living rooms. The fiery Texas Tech coach met with television officials last month in Los Angeles and gave his approval for a sitcom deal. CBS and Paramount Television are exploring the development of a half-hour comedy that could run by next year.

Knight, 63, would serve as a consultant and said he might make guest appearances.

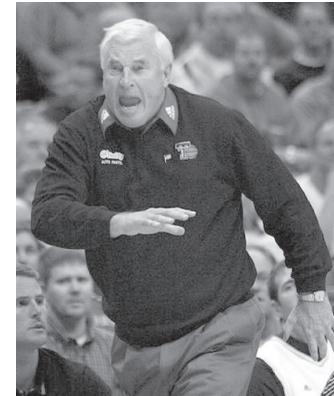
"Right now it's still in an embryonic stage," Lindy DeKoven, who would serve as the show's

executive producer, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal for Tuesday's editions. "Right now we don't have a writer yet, so we can't get into too much detail. But, it would be a half-hour comedy based on Bobby's character."

Knight was out of town Tuesday and couldn't be reached for comment.

The next step is for a writer to come to Lubbock and spend time getting to know Knight at work and at home.

When the script is written, DeKoven will take it to CBS, which will decide whether to make it a pilot.



AP  
Texas Tech head basketball coach Bobby Knight reacts to a foul call against his team March 12, 2004, during the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament in Dallas.

## Loss of costume piece is woman's cross to bear

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am in a terrible bind. Some years ago, I made a Halloween costume for a former roommate, "Connie." The costume was a nun's habit and it came out great. When I showed her the costume, I had a cross with it that had belonged to an aunt of my mother's who had been a nun in a religious order. Connie begged to borrow the cross, and I lent it to her against my better judgment. She then moved to California and I lost touch with her.

Now my mother is asking for the cross, and I'm afraid to tell her that I made a family heirloom part of a Halloween costume. What was I thinking! Connie refuses to return it to me, saying that she returned it "years ago."

I have sent her several e-mails. Now she has changed her e-mail address to avoid me. You are my last hope. I know Connie is a devoted reader of your column and so is her mother—who also wore the costume. I'm praying they will see themselves and save me from the wrath of my mother.

DESPERATE DAUGHTER, STATEN ISLAND



*Dear Abby*

DEAR DESPERATE: The cross should have been returned to you the day after Halloween. If it was inconvenient for Connie to bring it to you, you should have made it your business to go and collect it. It's a shame that your former friend is lying about having returned the cross. What she's probably afraid to admit is that she or her mother lost it, and now she's hiding. (Some "friend"!)

Very few people recognize themselves when they are written about in this column, so my advice to you is to level with your mother and start praying that she's forgiving. It's time to face the music.

□ □ □ □ □

DEAR ABBY: Before I was a stay-at-home mom to my daughter, I had a circle of friends with whom I had a lot in common. None of us had children, and we were all focused on advancing our careers.

I have since moved to a different town and have thrown myself into my daughter's activities and the new community. I am now surrounded by a circle of "mommy" girlfriends. I stay in touch with my old friends via e-mail, and we see each other two or three times a year, but I feel that we have drifted apart.

I would like to phase out these friendships for several reasons: We have nothing in common anymore. The distance makes visiting difficult. And I am tired of hearing them complain about money problems, boyfriend issues, their jobs, etc.

I would rather spend my free time with my husband and daughter. Should I feel guilty for wanting to phase out these friendships? I'd appreciate your feedback.

DEVOTED MOM IN LIVERMORE, CALIF.

DEAR DEVOTED MOM: For friendships to stay healthy and vital, there must be a commonality of interests. When you were a career woman, you had ties that bound you to these women. Now that your life has changed, it's not surprising that the bonds of camaraderie have loosened.

However, before consigning these relationships to the garbage heap, please consider that, as your daughter grows older, she will no longer be as dependent as she is now. At that point, you might want to resume your career. So, my advice to you is don't burn your bridges—you may regret it later.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)







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# Pastimes

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# Woods' top ranking on line at NEC Invitational

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP GOLF WRITER

**AKRON, Ohio** (AP)—Tiger Woods already lost out on the majors. Next up could be his No. 1 ranking.

The top candidate is Vijay Singh, who showed up at Firestone just 18 hours after winning the PGA Championship acting as if nothing had changed and he was ready to play the next tournament.

"You see some guys win and they have a little lull for a week, or they don't commit to the next week, or it's tiring for them to win," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said. "I saw him (Monday), and he's just ... he's just Vijay."

The next time Finchem sees him, he might be looking at the No. 1 player in the world.

Singh's playoff victory at Whistling Straits brought the 41-year-old Fijian to the brink of a goal not many thought possible two years ago.

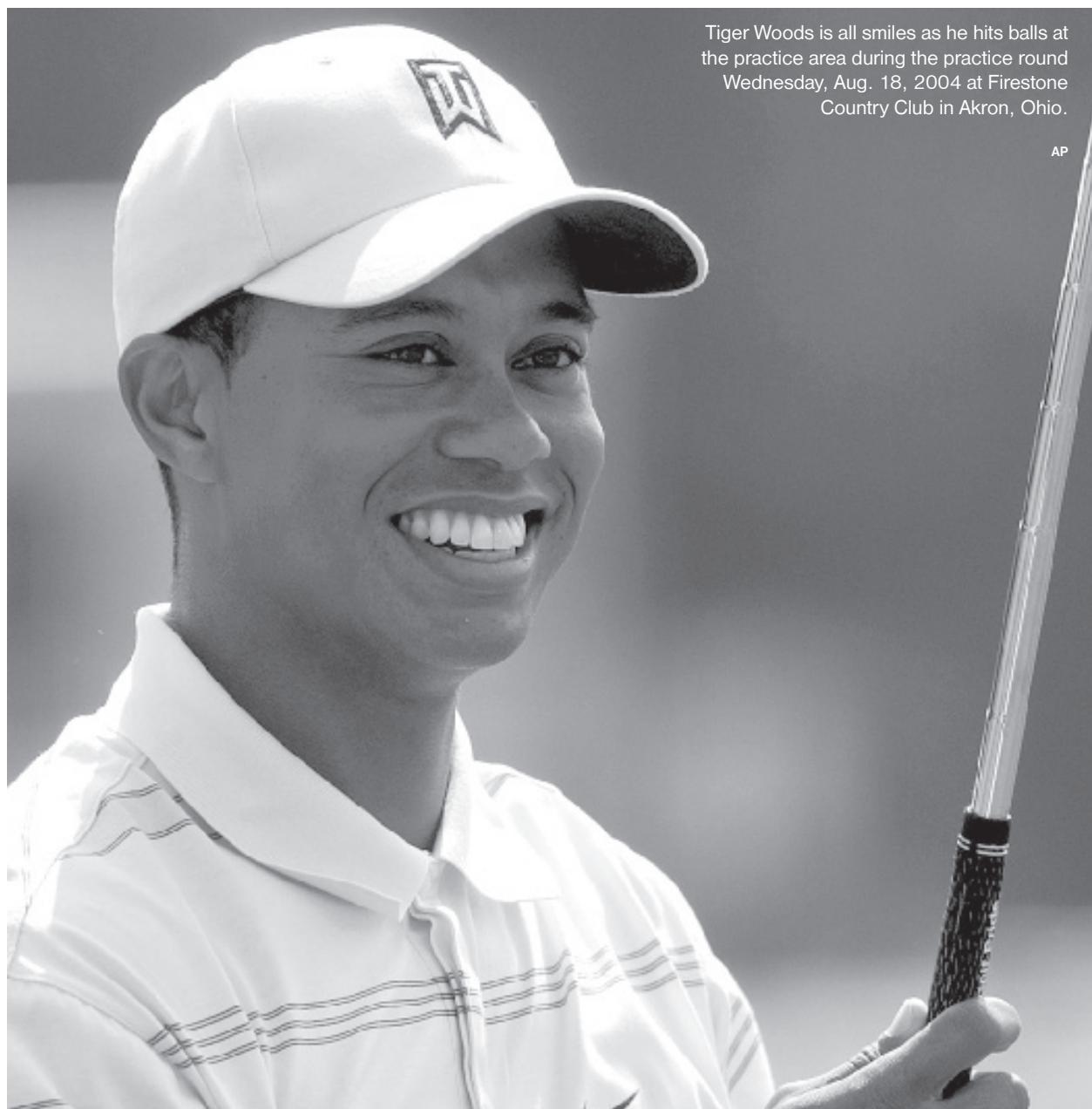
Having closed the gap to a mere one-tenth of a point, Singh needs only to finish ahead of Woods at the NEC Invitational to end Woods' record reign of 262 consecutive weeks atop the world ranking.

"I want to finish No. 1, and if I can do that, that would be great," Singh said. "That will be the ultimate goal for me - to win a major, win the money list and player of the year, and at the same time be No. 1 in the world. I'm very close, but my focus this week is this tournament.

"If I can pull this one off, then I'll probably take the rest of the year off."

Singh laughed, although everyone already knew he was kidding.

He loves to play tournament golf, so much that he thinks the world ranking system works against him. Singh already has won five times this year, compared with one victory for Woods. A year ago, Singh was a four-time winner and narrowly lost the PGA Tour



Tiger Woods is all smiles as he hits balls at the practice area during the practice round Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2004 at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

AP

player of the year award to Woods and his five victories.

What counts is consistency, which is why Singh is so close to the top.

That is how Woods has stayed there for so long - a record 332 weeks since turning pro eight years ago, breaking the record Monday that Greg Norman (331

weeks) had set over a 12-year span.

Woods has been No. 1 for the last 262 weeks, dating to his victory in the 1999 PGA Championship.

And he is well aware that it could be gone over the course of four rounds on a Firestone South course that is playing longer and tougher than ever.

"As far as the No. 1 ranking, it's certainly a point of honor," Woods said Wednesday. "You've had to play hard and you've had to play well, and for me to have done it for as long as Greg has, I've been very consistent."

But it's not just consistency. Winning is a large part of the No.

## Ravens leave door open for Deion to play

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP SPORTS WRITER

**WESTMINSTER, Md.** (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens are excited about the prospect of having Deion Sanders come out of retirement and be a part of their defensive backfield.

The question now is: Will he take them up on their offer?

The Ravens have told Sanders that if he wants to end his retirement of three years, he would be welcome to join the team. Sanders is working out at his Dallas home in an effort to determine if his 37-year-old body can take the punishment of playing in the NFL.

"He's obviously doing his due diligence to see if this is something he really wants to do," Ravens coach Brian Billick said Wednesday. "Certainly we'd love to have him in, and when we get to that point, he'll be in."

Ravens safety Corey Fuller, a good friend of Sanders, isn't so sure that Sanders is ready to put on a helmet and shoulder pads for the first time since 2000, when he was a member of the Washington Redskins. Sanders formally announced his retirement the day before the Redskins opened camp in 2001.

"I talk to him every day," Fuller said. "I know what he's going to do. The man said he's not coming. He's got four kids. It's not because he can't play anymore. It's just that the man has a lot going on outside of football."

But the Ravens are convinced that Sanders has yet to arrive at a final decision, and they're prepared to let him take his time in deciding if he wants to join the team.

"It's far enough along that when he feels he's ready, he's in," Billick said. "Deion is a professional. He doesn't want to come in here unless he's ready to go. We'll give him that kind of space, and when he feels he's physically at the right spot, then we'd love to have him."

Sanders made a name for himself at cornerback, a far more demanding position than where the Ravens would use him - as a fifth defensive back in passing situations. Therefore, Billick isn't worried about the possibility of Sanders perhaps being a step slower than when he was known as Prime Time.

"He's a special individual with special talents. He's not too old, I can promise you that," Billick said. "It will be a work in progress to a degree, but he's not too old. He's been out of it for

three years, which means he's fresh."

On that point, Fuller concurred.

"Deion is in great shape. He has a gym in his house and works out all the time. But when you get older, it comes down to your mind," Fuller said. "When you've been off for three years, you get attached to other things."

Sanders, a former major league outfielder, worked out with the Texas Rangers prior to Wednesday night's game against the Cleveland Indians. He shagged flies in the outfield and took swings in the batting cage.

As he left the field, Sanders was evasive when asked about returning to the NFL.

"I'm here to talk about baseball," Sanders said. "Baseball questions only. I really miss baseball. I didn't know how much I missed it, being around the guys."

If Sanders wants to play for the Ravens, defensive coordinator Mike Nolan would happily draw up a game plan that would include him in the backfield.

"Adding depth is one thing, but adding quality depth is a whole different thing," Nolan said. "A player like that comes along, we'll do what fits that player. It will allow us to be more aggressive than we already are."

A player like that allows you to do just about anything."

Most of the Ravens are excited about the possibility, too.

"Deion brings excitement to the game," linebacker Adalius Thomas said. "I used to watch him as a kid, and now you get a chance to sit down with him and pick his brain. It will be very exciting when he does, uh, if he does come back."

Ravens wide receiver Kevin Johnson is excited about the prospect of running in practice against cornerback Chris McAlister, who is expected to arrive in camp next week, and Sanders, one of the finest defensive backs of the past 20 years.

"You figure, with him, Chris and Gary Baxter, you're going to get the best of both worlds," Johnson said. "You're going up against Chris, who's the best of his time right now, and Deion, one of the best of his time."

But the addition of Sanders could spell trouble for a player such as rookie cornerback Lance Frazier, who's striving to be part of the team.

"That would be another roster spot, right at the position that I'm playing," Frazier said. "That will get me either booted or put on practice squad."

1 ranking, which is why Woods is on the verge of losing it. His only victory this year was the Match Play Championship in February, and with only five tournaments left on his schedule, he most likely will end his streak of five consecutive years with at least five victories.

"Greg was No. 1 in the world for a long period of time and he was winning two to four a year, and I did the same thing," Woods said. "I did five-plus for five straight years, and now Vijay has won five times this year. That's how you do it. You don't get to No. 1 in the world by finishing top 10. You have to win."

And that's why Woods is holding out hope that No. 1 still belongs to him until someone takes it away.

His game has not been sharp all year, although Woods can't argue with the venue.

Firestone South has been one of his favorite tracks since he turned pro, never finishing lower than fifth in his six appearances and winning the NEC Invitational three straight times (1999-2001) in a variety of ways - by one shot, by 12 shots and in a seven-hole playoff against Jim Furyk for his only victory in the summer of '01.

"I think any time you come to an event where you've won before and you've had success, you automatically feel comfortable and confident, if your game is not up to form or if you're playing great," Woods said. "I've come in both ways into this tournament, and for some reason I've played well."

The NEC Invitational is for players on the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup teams, the top 50 in the world ranking and winners of top tournaments around the world.

## Knicks re-sign forward Baker

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The New York Knicks re-signed forward Vin Baker on Wednesday.

The 11-year veteran averaged 9.8 points and 5.2 rebounds in 54 games for the Knicks and Boston Celtics last season. He signed as a free agent in March, averaging 6.6 points and 4.1 rebounds in the final 17 games for the Knicks.

"Vin gave us a solid presence off the bench at the end of last season and in the playoffs," Knicks President Isiah Thomas said. "With a fresh start at training camp with the team, we know he'll be an even more productive force."

The 6-foot-11 Baker averaged 14.3 minutes in four playoff games, contributing 5.5 points and 3.0 rebounds in the Knicks' first-round loss to the New Jersey Nets.

Baker was the eighth overall pick by the Milwaukee Bucks in the 1993 draft and a four-time All-Star, but his battle with alcoholism led to his release by Boston.

Baker was shooting more than 50 percent for the Celtics before he was suspended—and subsequently had his contract terminated—for violating terms of his alcohol treatment program.

# Woods aims to regain form at British Open

By TIM DAHLBERG  
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

**TROON, Scotland** (AP)—Tiger Woods has been hitting fairways this week, and his caddie, Steve Williams, hasn't been hitting anyone.

The British Open doesn't start until Thursday, of course, and things can change just as quickly as the quirky weather off the coast of west Scotland. Woods doesn't need to be reminded of that.

The last time the British Open was held in Scotland, he was not only an overwhelming favorite, but British bookies also fancied him to finish off the Grand Slam that year.

Incredibly, just two years later, he's not even the pick to win this week at Royal Troon. That honor would go to Ernie Els, who just a short time ago seemed baffled by the idea he could actually beat Woods when it really mattered.

Now, it seems, anyone—and that really means anyone—can beat Woods. Eight players have won major championships since he took the U.S. Open at Bethpage, N.Y., in 2002.

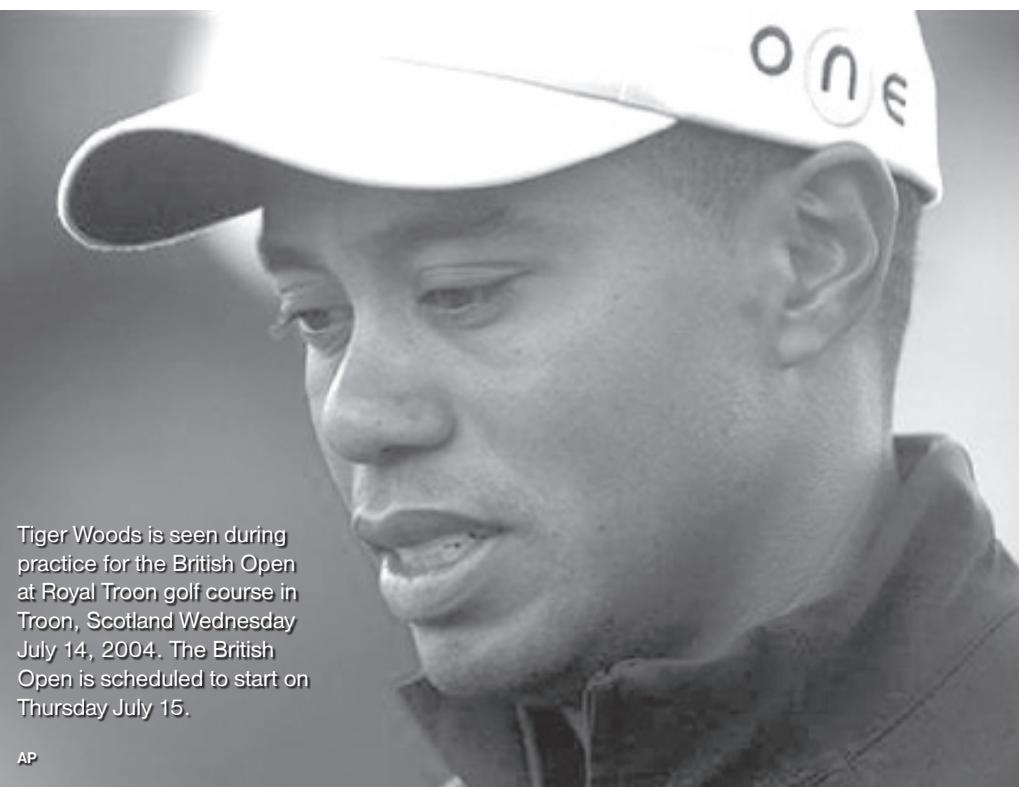
With each wayward drive, Woods sinks a little bit more toward mediocrity. The mystique is gone, and so is the intimidation other players used to feel every time he stuck a tee in the ground.

"Pure and simple, he can't drive the ball in the fairway," Nick Price said. "From all I've seen now the last five months, his off-the-tee game is so erratic, and there's no pattern to it because he's losing it right and left. Until such time as he starts getting the ball in the fairway, he's going to struggle."

"You have to be a great driver of the ball to win major championships."

Indeed you do, and Woods once was. Which, of course, brings us to the question of what Woods has been doing to become that great driver again.

Well, he's got a new driver for one, a big fat graphite shafted Nike that's just the type he once



Tiger Woods is seen during practice for the British Open at Royal Troon golf course in Troon, Scotland Wednesday July 14, 2004. The British Open is scheduled to start on Thursday July 15.

AP

scorned. He's longer than ever, but length has never been a problem for Woods.

Presumably he's been out practicing with it, though you might wonder where he's getting the time. He's got a fiancee and an increasing number of business interests and recreational pursuits away from golf.

Some of those are in Las Vegas, where Butch Harmon, his former swing guru, teaches. Woods' visits, though, have nothing to do with getting instruction from his estranged coach.

Last month he jetted there for a few days of gambling after finishing well off the pace at the U.S. Open. And just hours after he finished his final round at the Western Open near Chicago, he was spotted partying at a posh casino nightclub.

Coincidence? Maybe.

Woods, like anyone else, has the right to blow off steam. He's certainly earned it after bearing the many responsibilities that came with being Tiger Woods over the last few years.

But Woods became great because of his singular focus on his golf game, as his father, Earl Woods, would be more than willing

to tell you. He became great by constant hours of practicing to come up with a short game as great as the shots he could seemingly manufacture at will off the tee.

Whether the same focus is still there is hard to figure out. Woods doesn't let anyone inside his private life, and he's not about to tell anyone what he's doing.

But if last month's U.S. Open is any indication, there are cracks in the armor. At Shinnecock Hills, Woods feuded publicly with Harmon even while his drives were going sideways, and he wasn't a factor on the weekend.

At the same time, his caddie became so annoyed at a photographer that he kicked his camera, then later went into the crowd and grabbed another one from an astonished spectator.

The boss doesn't like distractions, you know.

"I've always played my best when I've gone out and played—and stayed—focused on what I have to do and not worry about anything else," Woods said Tuesday.

Woods didn't say much else. He's become more taciturn than ever, insisting as always that everything is fine, while at the

same time refusing to be drawn into any specifics about his game or his swing.

Harmon speculated at the U.S. Open that his former student was in a "bit of denial" about everything, a statement that angered Woods mostly because it was made publicly.

Since then, Woods and Harmon have chatted and Woods said they patched up some of their differences. None of that chat concerned his golf swing, though, and Woods still stubbornly clings to the notion he can fix things himself.

Maybe he can. Maybe Woods knows something no one else knows and will find a way to do something he hasn't done since last October—win a stroke-play tournament.

Winning, of course, is the best way to quiet critics. If Woods can win his second British Open, people will quickly quit talking about his slump and return to talking about his chances of beating Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major championships.

And maybe his caddie will get a clue and quit bullying people on his way around the course.

## Armstrong, UConn pair win ESPY Awards

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong was a repeat winner as male athlete of the year, and Connecticut basketball stars Diana Taurasi and Emeka Okafor were also honored Wednesday night at the 12th annual ESPY Awards.

Armstrong is currently attempting to win the Tour de France for the sixth straight time.

Taurasi won the best college female athlete for the second straight year as well as the best female athlete, while Okafor was chosen the best male college athlete. The two led their respective teams to NCAA championships last spring.

For the first time, fans determined the winners in all 36 categories, including the

19 cross-cutter honors that pit athletes from different sports against each other. More than 10 1/2 million votes were cast between June 21 and July 9.

Armstrong was honored as the best male athlete over home run king Barry Bonds, quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning, and NBA star Kevin Garnett.

Taurasi was selected over golfer Annika Sorenstam and tennis star Justine Henin-Hardenne in the female athlete of the year category.

The Detroit Pistons, who beat the Los Angeles Lakers in last month's NBA Finals, were picked as the best team over the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, World Series-winning Florida Marlins, Stanley

Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning and the UConn men's and women's basketball teams.

Detroit's Larry Brown won the

best coach/manager award, and

the Pistons were the winners in

the new best upset category.

Among other winners were

Cleveland Cavaliers star LeB-

ron James, best breakthrough

athlete; Masters champion Phil

Mickelson, best male golfer and

top championship performance;

Manning, best NFL player; Gar-

nett, best NBA player; Lauren

Jackson, best WNBA player;

Antonio Tarver, best boxer;

Stewart Elliott, best jockey;

Andy Roddick, best male ten-

nis player; Gail Devers, female

track and field, and Serena Wil-

liams, best female tennis player.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

#### MLB

HOUSTON ASTROS—Fired Jim Williams, manager; Burt Hooton, pitching coach; and Harry Spilman, hitting coach. Named Phil Garner manager, Jim Hickey pitching coach, and Gary Gaetti hitting coach.

#### NBA

ATLANTA HAWKS—Signed C Jason Collier.

BOSTON CELTICS—Re-signed C Mark Blount to a six-year contract.

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Signed G Jason Hart and F Tamar Slay.

DALLAS MAVERICKS—Re-signed G Marquis Daniels to a five-year contract with a team option.

DETROIT PISTONS—Signed F Antonio McDyess to a four-year contract with a team option and G-F Carlos Delfino to a three-year contract with a team option.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Re-signed C Adonal Foyle to a six-year contract.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Traded F-C Melvin Ely and G Eddie House to Charlotte for 2005 and 2006 second-round draft picks.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Traded C Shaquille O'Neal to Miami for F Lamar Odom, F Caron Butler, F-C Brian Grant and a future first-round draft pick.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Signed F Brian Cardinal to a six-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Signed C Etan Thomas to a six-year offer sheet.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Signed F Brian Skinner to a multiyear contract.

PHOENIX SUNS—Signed G Quentin Richardson to a six-year offer sheet. Signed G Steve Nash to a six-year contract.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Re-signed F Bruce Bowen. Signed G Beno Udrih.

TORONTO RAPTORS—Signed G Rafer Alston to a five-year contract.

UTAH JAZZ—Signed F Carlos Boozer and C Mehmet Okur to six-year offer sheets. Re-signed G Carlos Arroyo to a four-year contract.

#### NFL

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Voided the trade of DE Jamal Reynolds to Indianapolis after Reynolds failed his physical and waived him.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Released S Jason Perry.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed G Adrien Clarke to a four-year contract and LB Jeremiah Trotter to a one-year contract.

#### Olympics

U.S. OLYMPIC MEN'S ROAD CYCLING TEAM—Announced Levi Leipheimer will replace Lance Armstrong.

#### College

AUBURN—Named Casey Dunn assistant baseball coach.

DARTMOUTH—Named Maribel Sanchez Souther women's cross country coach.

EVERGREEN STATE—Named Kim Farnsworth athletic trainer.

HOUSTON—Named John Sevenance women's tennis coach.

N.J. CITY—Named Bridgette Quijano softball coach.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE—Named Eric Viney women's assistant volleyball coach.

NORTHWESTERN—Announced men's junior basketball F Bernard Cote will transfer from Kentucky.

OKLAHOMA—Named Bill Pink director of women's basketball operations.

PALM BEACH ATLANTIC—Announced the resignation of Chris Bizo, men's and women's tennis coach, to take a position with Texas-Tyler.

RHODE ISLAND—Announced the resignation of Boe Pearman, women's basketball coach.

SANTA CLARA—Named M. Felipe Montoro assistant cross country coach and Steve Drake women's assistant basketball coach.

SETON HALL—Named Gerson Echeverry men's assistant soccer coach.

SKIDMORE—Named Darren Bennett women's basketball coach.

ST. FRANCIS, PA.—Named Wylie Crisanti women's lacrosse coach.

TULSA—Named Christy Connover softball coach.

WRIGHT STATE—Named Rob Cooper baseball coach.

By The Associated Press

### LOCAL SCORES

#### RESTAURANT LEAGUE STANDINGS

Angel Wings	3	0
Country House	3	1
Jollibee	3	1
Capricciosa	2	1
Keeraku	1	2
LSG Sky Chefs	0	3
Ei Segundo	0	4

## Prosecutor asks to retry Jayson Williams

### FLEMINGTON, N.J. (AP)

The prosecutor in the Jayson Williams manslaughter case wants to retry the former NBA star in Hunterdon County.

In papers filed with the trial judge on Wednesday, First Assistant Hunterdon County Prosecutor Steven Lember argued that the retrial should be moved to Hunterdon County, where limousine driver Costas Christofi was killed by a blast from a shotgun handled by Williams.

"Just as the perceived existence of pretrial publicity led the court to change venue to Somerset County, the even-more extensive trial publicity in Somerset County necessitates a return to Hunterdon County," Lember wrote.

Superior Court Judge Edward Coleman moved the first trial to Somerset County because of extensive pretrial publicity.

Lember will ask Coleman to reconsider his decision not to allow testimony about Williams' prior gun use, including the alleged shooting of his dog.

gravated manslaughter, aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, but was convicted on four counts related to his efforts to cover up the shooting.

The jury deadlocked on the remaining reckless manslaughter count and a mistrial was declared. Lember decided to retry the case on that one charge.

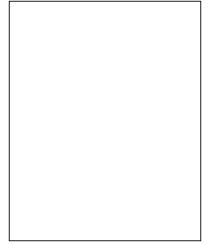
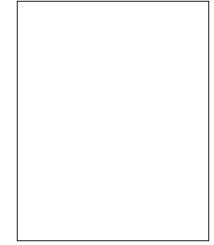
The retrial is scheduled to start Jan. 10 in Somerville.

Christofi died in 2002 in Williams' Alexandria Township mansion.

If the judge denies Lember's request for a change of venue, the prosecutor has asked that a jury be brought in from a neighboring county with demographics similar to Hunterdon.

Lember will ask Coleman to reconsider his decision not to allow testimony about Williams' prior gun use, including the alleged shooting of his dog.





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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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